The Beehive

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Phoenix Area MISSIONS

Nearly 600 full-time elders, sister missionaries and couples are currently serving in the the three Phoenix area missions: the Arizona Phoenix Mission, Arizona Tempe Mission and Arizona Mesa Mission. Among them are Sister Anthony of Orange County, California, (left) and Sister Arias of El Salvador, who are called as Spanish-speaking missionaries in the Arizona Mesa Mission and who spend some of their time each week helping to staff and greet guests at the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center.

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

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Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

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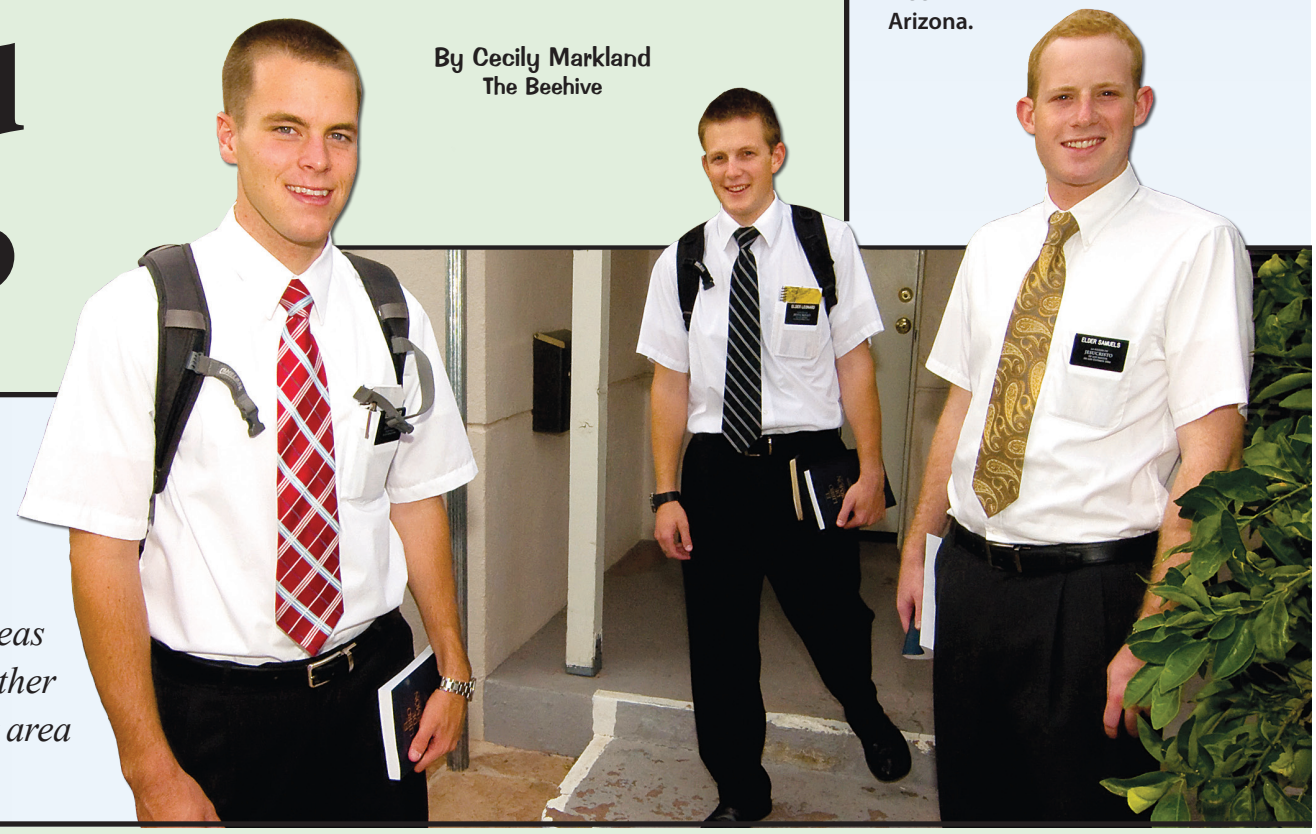
Arizona Members Work with Missionaries

to Extend a Hand of Rescue and Fellowship

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

For missionaries in the three missions that cover the Phoenix Valley and surrounding areas, companionships routinely change as new missionaries come and others go home, or as they are "transferred" to new areas within their mission--whether it be to another zone in the Phoenix Valley or to an outlying area in the state.



Missionaries in the Arizona Mesa Mission (r to l) Elder Barker from New Albany, Indiana and Elder Leonard from South Africa, work with a new missionary, Elder Samuels from Morristown, New Jersey, during his first week in Arizona.

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

With three missions in the Phoenix area — each with nearly 200 missionaries — you can drive almost anywhere in the Valley, on just about any day, and see the familiar sights of missionaries at work: young men in suits or modestly dressed young women — on bikes and with backpacks and all wearing the familiar black and white tag signifying that they belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

One missionary, Sister Nishiguchi, from Bountiful, Utah, says, "I love the

Continued on pg. 4

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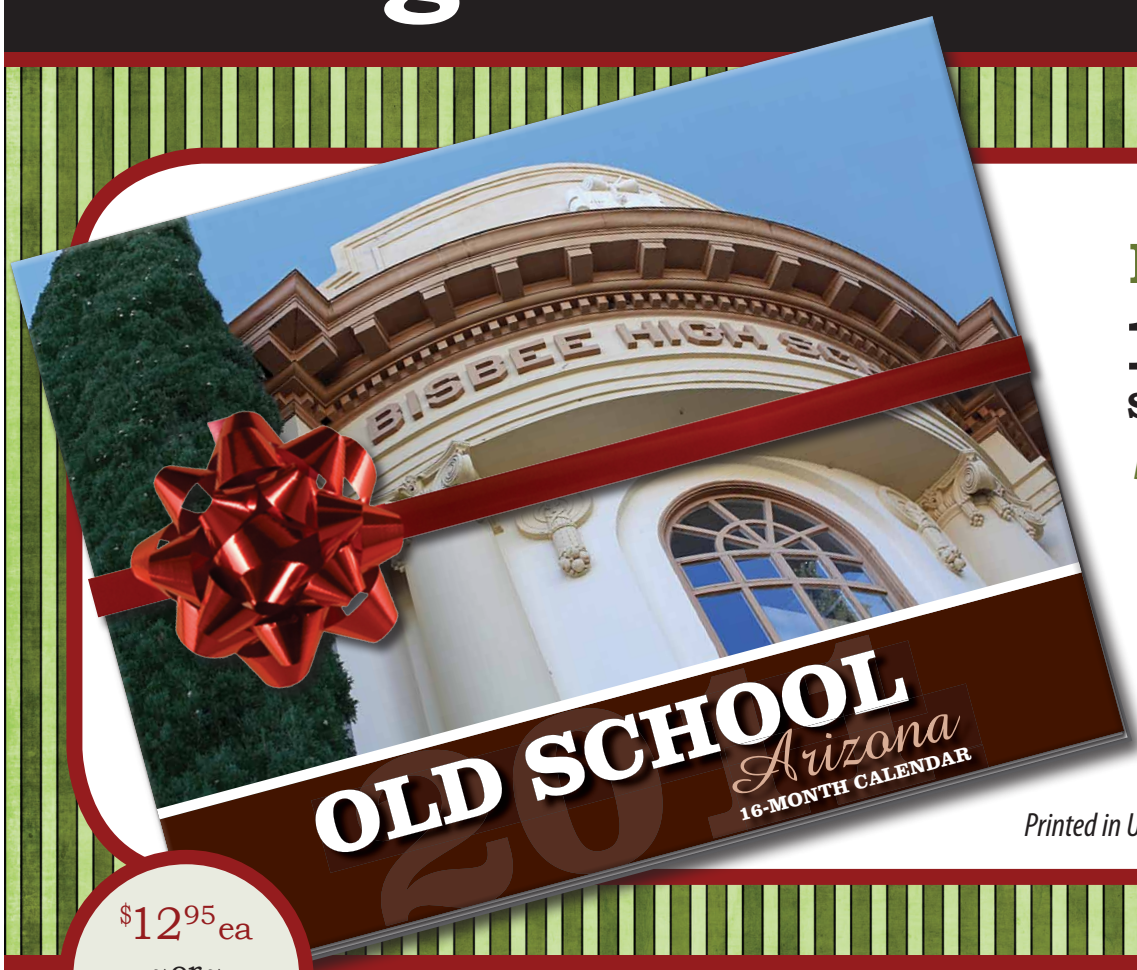

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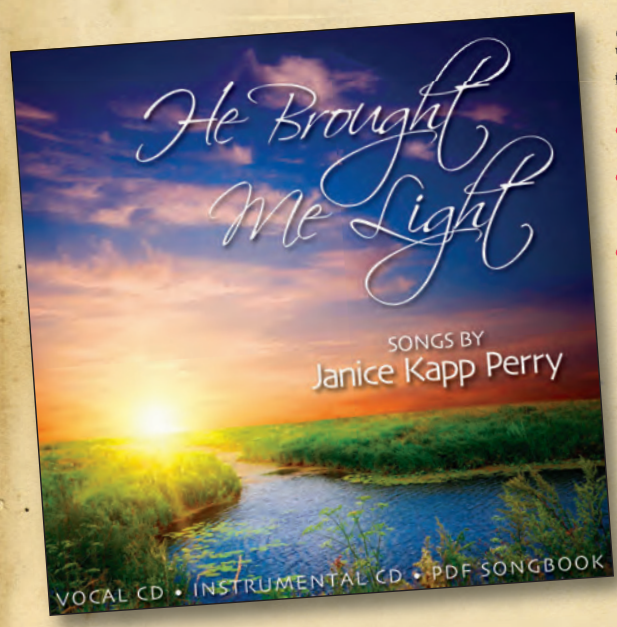

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AZ Members Work with Missionaries
Continued from pg. 3

Lord and I wanted to serve Him."

Hermana Arias, a sister missionary from El Salvador, says she had a "desire to repay to God for my many blessings," but in serving a mission, "I have received so much, I never can repay."

Perhaps not as apparent, but every bit as real, are the many local members who are heeding the call to share the gospel.

President Paul Sherman Beck of the Arizona Phoenix Mission says, "Some stakes are doing wonderfully, and individual wards have followed the directive of President Monson, to go to the rescue and to identify families that need to be taught the gospel and who need to be invited to prepare for the sacred ordinances of the temple."

President Beck and his wife, Debra, members of the Cherry Grove Ward, Ohio East Stake, have served in Phoenix since July 2008.

He says their mission "has been a marvelous blessing for us, but it's going by much too fast."

President and Sister Beck were both born in Salt Lake City and were married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1974. They have five children and 13 grandchildren.

Photo by Robert Glutz Photography

Serving as president of the Phoenix Arizona Mission is President Paul Sherman Beck, with his wife, Debra, who are members of the Cherry Grove Ward in the Cincinnati Ohio East Stake.

Prior to their call, President Beck had served as a stake president, high councilor, bishop's counselor, elder's quorum president and a counselor in the Ohio Cincinnati Mission presidency.

His 31-year career at Procter and Gamble included 11 years as a global vice president. He has been active in local and national organizations, including serving on the Board of Directors of the Boy Scouts of America.

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Sister Beck has served as stake Young Women president, stake missionary, counselor in stake and ward Relief Society presidencies, counselor in a ward Primary presidency, Sunday school teacher and Cub Scout leader.

When the Becks were first called, the Phoenix Mission was, geographically, among the largest in the world, covering from Buckeye to East Mesa, parts of New Mexico and north into Page, Arizona, and taking in a corner of Utah.

"That changed the first of July in the course of the creation of 10 new missions, including the New Mexico Farmington Mission," says President Beck.

The size of the Arizona Phoenix Mission was reduced by about half.

In terms of logistics alone, "that's been a wonderful blessing," President Beck says. He says it used to take three days to complete transfers as missionaries would have to travel such long distances. "We now can do it in a day."

In addition, he says, "Our conversion rates have increased — with an average of 20 to 25 families a month joining the Church — even with half the geography gone."

He adds, "This is what comes when members extend themselves and seek the spirit to help them do missionary work."

There is no greater joy than comes from being an instrument in the Lord's hands and sharing the message of the restored gospel and helping others come unto Christ

President Beck's own love for missionary work began when he served as a young elder in the San Juan Islands.

"There is no greater joy than comes from being an instrument in the Lord's hands and sharing the message of the restored gospel and helping others come unto Christ," President Beck says.

President Robert Spence Ellsworth of the Arizona Mesa Mission agrees.

While he and his wife, Laurie, are fairly new to Arizona - having been called to begin their mission in July 2010 - he says they love the work and the opportunity to serve.

"Our hope is to find and teach all those we feel Heavenly Father has prepared to receive the gospel," President Ellsworth says.

The Mesa Mission covers most of Mesa, all of Scottsdale, the eastern part of Phoenix and up into Payson, Heber, Snowflake and Taylor. The mission currently has six senior couples serving and approximately 190 elders and sisters—a fourth who are called as Spanish-speaking missionaries.

Photo by Brandt Photography

The Mesa Arizona Mission is currently being led by President R. Spence Ellsworth, 59, with his wife, Laurie. The Ellsworths are from Carey, Idaho, and are members of the Carey Idaho Stake.

President Ellsworth says, "My emphasis for the next three years is to work with members and to support the members in the missionary efforts."

He says even simple acts by ward members can do much to help the gospel move forward.

"Be a friend to everyone. Invite people to your home or to Church activities or to do something with you, whether it's a Church-related activity or not, it doesn't matter. Just reach out and be a friend."

The Ellsworths are members of the Carey 2nd Ward, Carey Idaho Stake. Prior to being called to serve in Mesa, President Ellsworth was as a counselor in the Idaho Boise Mission presidency. He has been a stake president and bishop and served in the North Argentina Mission as a young man.

Sister Ellsworth formerly served as Stake Primary President, ward Relief Society and Young Women President, Primary teacher and Institute instructor.

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AZ Members Work with Missionaries
Continued from pg. 5

The Ellsworths have seven children.

As part of his duties, President Ellsworth oversees the missionaries who staff the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center. He says the Visitors' Center is always a source of referrals and is a wonderful place to take people who may be interested in the Church, particularly during the Christmas lights or Easter Pageant.

In the Arizona Tempe Mission - which covers through Casa Grande into Yuma on one end and into Show Low on the other - Dean Lynn Howes is the Mission President. He and his wife, Catherine, have four children and are members of the Elk Hollow Ward, North Salt Lake Utah Stake. President Howes is a former counselor in a stake presidency, high councilor, bishop, stake and ward Young Men president and counselor in a bishopric. He worked as a partner with SCP Worldwide.

> *This area really is a gathering place, a place where Heavenly Father brings his Saints and prepares others to join the Church.*

Sister Howes is a former stake Young Women president, ward Primary president and counselor, counselor and secretary in a ward Young Women presidency, ward Relief Society president, counselor and teacher.

President Howes says in the Tempe Mission, with 32 stakes and 280 units, "the need for productive member missionary work is extra important."

He refers to the history of the Latter-day Saints in the Tempe area, saying, "Tempe Crossing is where many of the people came across and supplies were brought in to Mesa and this entire area."

President Howes continues, "This area really is a gathering place, a place where Heavenly Father brings his Saints and prepares others to join the Church. It is undeniable that the Valley is a place for members of the Church to build strong influence and increase in numbers."

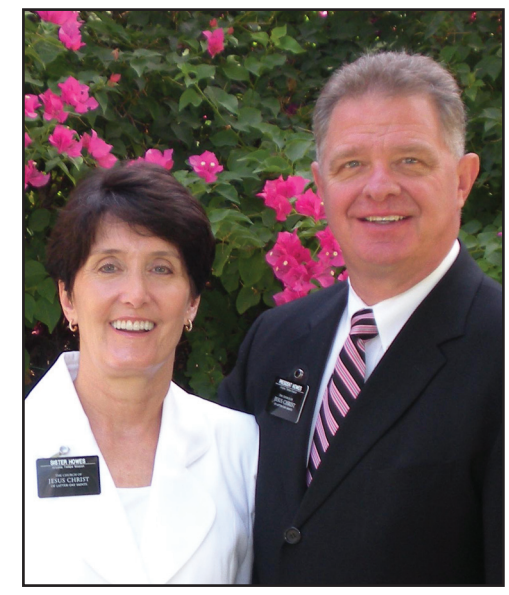

Photo courtesy Elder Russell Thronock

Dean Lynn Howes, Mission President of the Arizona Tempe Mission and his wife, Catherine, have been serving in Arizona since July 1, 2010.

President Howes hopes members within the Tempe Mission and across the state will "have more confidence in sharing the gospel with friends and neighbors. Our responsibility is to be better disciples of Christ."

After all, he says, "The great missionary work of the Sons of Mosiah in the Book of Mormon led to the creation of the Army of Helaman and the Army of Helaman saved a nation. What is our responsibility? It is to save a nation as well."

President Howes concludes by noting, "President Ezra Taft Benson said the only way to save the world we have is through sharing the gospel."

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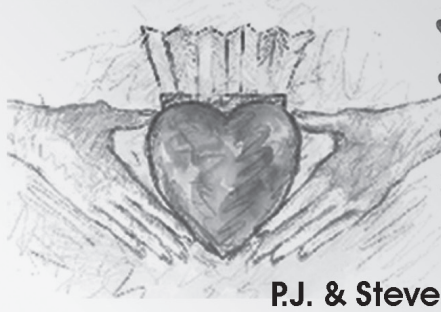

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Wade Family Puppeteers Celebrate 30th Anniversary "Cousins" Show with FREE Performances

Photo courtesy of Joyzelle Curtis

To carry on the tradition of puppeteering that has been a hobby and a business in the Gene and Joy Wade family for decades, the "Wade" cousins--grandchildren of Gene and Joy Wade--will present a "cousins show" for friends and family and interested community members at Christmastime. This year is the 30th anniversary of the first Wade cousins show.

This year marks a milestone in the family's puppeteering history.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

She got her first puppet when she was 13. Since then, for the past 70 years, puppeteering has been a big part of Joy Wade's life. It's also a tradition she and her husband, Gene, have passed on to their children—sons, David, Kevin and Allan and daughters, Joyzelle Curtis and Janel Durfee—and their 33 grandchildren.

This year marks a milestone in the family's puppeteering history. In this, the 30th anniversary of what has been called the "cousins" show, the third generation of puppeteers—the grandchildren of Joy and Gene—will again take to the stage at Christmastime to celebrate and share what has been a hobby and a business for the Wade family over the years.

People throughout Arizona have seen their unusual style of puppetry, which Joy calls "Performance Puppetry."

Her style brings the puppeteers into the open, "so, the puppeteer is as important to the show as the puppet," Joy says.

She says, while various family groups have performed at corporate or community events over the years, the Christmas show has allowed the family to share their talents with extended family and friends.

As each of the 33 cousins have joined the show, "they have only missed those years that missions, work or schooling interfered," Joy says. This year, 30 of the cousins and 18 great grandchildren will appear in the show.

"All of our old fans and friends, and any others, who would especially like to come and help us celebrate this special 30th Anniversary are welcome."

The puppeteers will present two free shows, one at 4 p.m. and one at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 21, at the Maricopa Stake Center, 611 North Stewart in Mesa.

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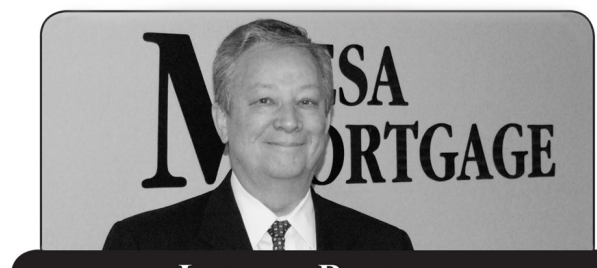

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Gilbert Arizona Temple

Official Groundbreaking and Site Dedication Marks Beginning of Construction

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Construction of a temple in Gilbert was announced in April 2008, in one of the first such declarations made by President Thomas S. Monson after he became the President of the Church.

Now, two and a half years after that announcement, an estimated 7,500 people gathered at the temple site on November 13 to participate in the official groundbreaking ceremony.

Elder Claudio R. M. Costa of the Presidency of the Seventy presided over the ceremonies that marked the official beginning of the temple construction. The temple, located on the southeast corner of Pecos and Greenfield roads, is expected to be completed in approximately two years.

Sixteen-year-old Tyler Day, of the Maplewood Ward, San Tan Stake, says, "It's going to be amazing, with the temple being so close and being able to go so often." Tyler attended the groundbreaking with his siblings and his parents, Scott and Allison Day. Earlier

Continued on pg. 10

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

At the culmination of the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Gilbert Arizona Temple on November 13, turning over the first ceremonial shovefuls of dirt are (l to r) Mesa Arizona Temple President Daryl Garn, Elders Michael D. Pickerd and David E. LeSueur of the Quorum of the Seventy, Elder Claudio R. M. Costa of the Presidency of the Seventy, Elder William R. Walker of the Quorum of the Seventy and Executive Director of the Temple Department and Elders Michael Brown and Jim L. Wright of the Quorum of the Seventy.

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Gilbert Arizona Temple
Continued from pg.8

in the week, as part of his friend, Cade Anderson's Eagle project, Tyler helped paint their ward's name on the back of 600 chairs that were used for the event.

Involved in another aspect of preparation was Beecroft, LLC, the excavation contractors who have been at work since last July to bury the huge power lines that used to border the site.

Cathy Beecroft, of the Gilbert 6th Ward, Gilbert Highland Stake, says, "We feel really privileged that we got a chance to do this work."

She paid tribute to a different kind of work that has been done by many others, saying, "There are so many worthy people in Gilbert. I believe that because of their dedication and hard work all these years, they have earned a right to have a temple here in their midst that they can access frequently."

These same sentiments were expressed by Daryl Garn, Mesa Arizona Temple President, who told those gathered

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Artist's Rendering of the Gilbert Arizona Temple

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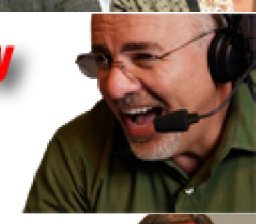

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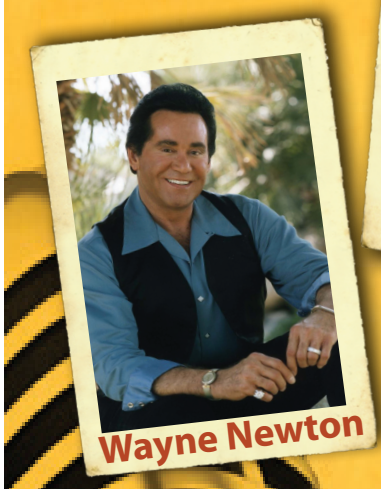
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Gilbert Arizona Temple
Continued from pg.8

at the groundbreaking, that the Gilbert Temple represents "the fruits of your righteousness." He said a temple is a "place the Lord may come, the most holy of all places on earth."

Elder William R. Walker, Executive Director of the Temple Department, said, "It is because of the love for the temple" and "the faith and dedication of Latter-day Saints in Arizona that this temple is being built;" and added, "Heaven smiles upon this event."

"The Church is so strong here," Elder Walker continued, saying that, "many here are descendents of righteous pioneer Saints" and that there is a great commitment to temple worship and service among the Saints in Arizona.

Elder Walker said that many have "prayed for this day" and concluded by saying, "The Saints in Arizona are recognized and honored by the leadership of the Church for your faith and devotion."

Elder Costa agreed, saying, "You are making great efforts to make the Church go forward here." He said, "I am humbled to receive this assignment … to dedicate this wonderful place for the Gilbert Arizona Temple."

The temple's design, done by Architektron, a Utah-based firm with offices in Tempe, features an ivory-colored exterior, made of detailed, pre-cast concrete and stone and with art glass windows as accents.

Okland Construction has the contract to build the temple, which will have a total floor area, of 83,000 square feet. When completed, it will be the tallest building in Gilbert, at 82 ½ feet tall, with a spire that will rise to 195 feet and will be capped with a statue of the angel Moroni.

The site will be heavily landscaped with plants and trees, shaded plazas and water features. Within the next two to four years, a meetinghouse will be constructed adjacent to the temple.

Elder Walker, who said the Mesa Temple is one of the busiest in the Church and is working at nearly full capacity, said, "A temple is a blessing to the community. It will add to the beauty and serenity of the area. It will be a quiet serene place where people will come in small groups."

"The members who live nearby, won't have to travel to Mesa and wait in line in the temple there," he added. "The Gilbert Temple will be a source of pride and joy, a great blessing to the members of the Church and the community."

Additional information about the groundbreaking, the history of the LDS Church in Gilbert as well as updates about the Gilbert Temple construction can be found at: http://www.gilbertmormontemple.org/.

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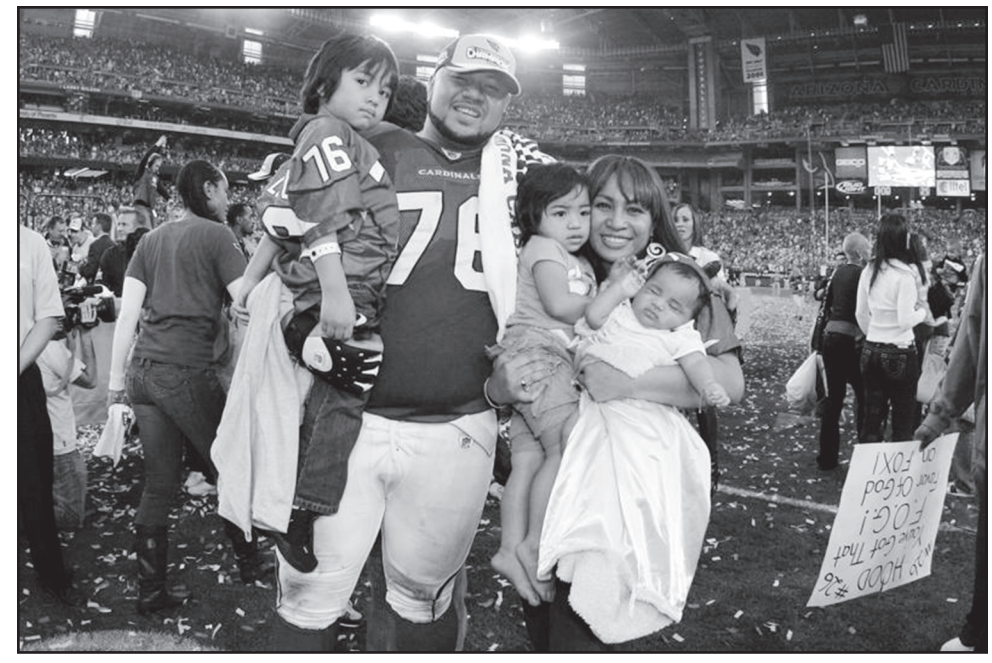

Photo courtesy of Taitusi "Deuce" Lutui

On the field after the NFC championship game which secured the Phoenix Cardinals' Super Bowl berth in 2009, offensive lineman Deuce Lutui is shown with his wife, Pua and their children. Deuce is holding their oldest, Inoke Liuaki Moe Hau Lutui, named after Deuce's father. Pua is holding their daughter, Melenani Lutui, and their youngest at the time, Taitusi Lomu "Deuce" Lutui, who is named after his father.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Big, talented Tongan native, Taitusi "Deuce" Lutui, took to football, making a name for himself even from his early high school days.

He played at Mesa High, Mesa Community College, then at Snow College in Utah. His performance there led to a scholarship at University of Southern California, where he played on the Trojans' 2004 national championship team.

Selected in the second round of the 2006 NFL draft by the Arizona Cardinals, Deuce started nine games as a rookie, 15 in 2007, 16 in 2008.

Yet, as this year's season got underway, the big offensive lineman who wears #76, had good reason to have more than a few misgivings.

His father—Deuce's hero and his greatest fan—passed away last November; and his off-season had been a bit tumultuous. Deuce, a restricted free agent, had missed workouts, trying to hold out for a long-term deal from the Cardinals. Ultimately, they offered him a one-year deal, which he signed.

Still, Deuce has emerged from it all with an even stronger personal commitment to be the best, not only on the gridiron, but as a priesthood leader and father in his home.

Born in Tonga, his parents, Inoke and Mele Lutui, joined the Church there.

"My father was such an example and an icon to our family, the only one in his family to join the Church," Deuce says.

Inoke also was an example of facing adversity with valor. After moving to Arizona in 1982, he worked three jobs to provide for his family so Mele could stay home with their five children.

In 1990, on I-10 outside of Phoenix, the Lutuis were in a horrible accident. Their van overturned several times. The youngest daughter, Diana, was killed, Sister Lutui suffered severe injuries to her face. Ten-year-old Brook and Brother Lutui sustained head injuries and were in a coma for several months. Sinia, 15 at the time; Sam, 16; and Deuce, who was six, weren't seriously injured.

"As tragic as the accident was, there were huge blessings in it," Deuce says.

"It was difficult for us physically, but spiritually, it strengthened us. The example of my father during that trial of life, his attitude through it all, was one of the testaments to me that Christ lives," Deuce says.

After the accident, when he was no longer able to work to support his family financially, Inoke began attending the temple daily, often spending at least four hours and sometimes all day there.

"He was on the Lord's errand as far as temple work," Deuce says. He "com-

Continued on pg. 14

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11-10 BH

Mesa Stake Focuses on FITNESS

By Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

To culminate a year of focusing on fitness, Mesa Kimball East Stake held a stake-sponsored mini-triathlon on Saturday, Oct. 23 near Red Mountain Park in Mesa.

Mark Killian, second counselor in the stake presidency, says when he was asked early on why the stake would do this, he explained: "All of us need to become healthy and be more in line with the teachings of the Word of Wisdom. No matter your weight, height or width, each of us can improve the way we eat and the way we take care of our bodies."

Stake leaders adopted the theme "Health is a Habit," encouraging stake members to make changes in exercise and nutrition to begin fostering healthier lifestyles.

In January, the stake held a fair featuring health and fitness classes. A monthly newsletter kept members informed and encouraged them to prepare for the mini-triathlon, which included a quarter-mile swim, a four-mile bike ride and a two-mile run.

For the mini-triathlon, nearly 500 people turned out to participate individually in all events or as a team with members doing different portions. Some were serious competitors; others were individuals and families who simply wanted to say they had done it.

Photo by Kylie Glover

Nearly 500 participated in Kimball East Stake's mini-triathlon in October. Among them were members of the Jenkins family who crossed the finish line together, wearing shirts in memory of Capt. Cory Jenkins who died in Afghanistan last year. The back of the shirts said,"Push Me Cory."

"Some of the participants took it seriously but for the most part it was families, which is what we wanted," says event planner Cindy Kellis of the Edgewood Ward. "It was a huge family affair."

Melissa Bosen, of the Aspen Ward, says her family, "loved it. We had such a good time and we were so excited that our stake did something like this."

The Jenkins family, of the Century Gardens Ward, wore matching "Team Jenkins" t-shirts and walked in memory of Army Capt. Cory Jenkins, who was killed August 2009 while serving in Afghanistan.

"This kind of thing was right down Cory's alley," says his mother, Jeanne Jenkins. "We were participating in something that he loved."

Sister Jenkins says she was the last person to cross the finish line, but she was not alone; family members, who had finished earlier, went back to join her and all run in together.

"There were some pretty inspirational moments," says Sister Kellis.

Arizona Cardinal Focuses on Family
Continued from pg. 13

pleted 70,000 names in initiatory before he died. That's more souls than you could pack in most stadiums. I know how loud it sounded at the National NFC championship with 65,000 people. I can only imagine my dad's reunion on the other side."

Deuce adds, "I know of a surety that many of the blessings I have in my life are because of my father's work in the temple and for the Lord."

He and his wife, Pua, have three boys and a girl, ranging in age from five years to six months. Deuce says his father taught him much that he applies in his chosen career, but even more that he uses at home.

"He was also the hardest worker I've ever known." Even with his own physically grueling efforts, Deuce says, "I won't ever carry a burden like my dad did physically."

Deuce gives his father a great deal of credit for his success. "He never missed a practice. He never missed a game, except for the games I played on Sunday."

He continues, "It uplifted my experience to know my parents put that first, to praise His name on Sunday."

Deuce has had many spiritual experiences of his own, both on and off the field. "Most of all," he says, "I've been greatly blessed to be able to serve as an ambassador for the Lord."

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TIME TO BLOSSOM

Accepting Registrations for Two Exciting Sessions this Year

Photos Courtesy of Time to Blossom

The "Time to Blossom" Young Women's Conference has opened registration for two sessions this summer for the five-day conference for young LDS girls that features service opportunities, entertainment, fun and confidence- and testimony-building activities as well as top-notch speakers, including (top l to r) American Idol finalist Brooke White, well-known author and speaker John Bytheway, (bottom l to r) Olympic silver medalist Lacey Nymeyer and EFY speaker and author Brad Wilcox.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

After a successful opening conference last June that received rave reviews from girl and parents, "Time to Blossom" is opening registration for next year's sessions of its Young Women's Conference.

"We have looked at what worked well and have tweaked a few things to

Continued on pg. 17

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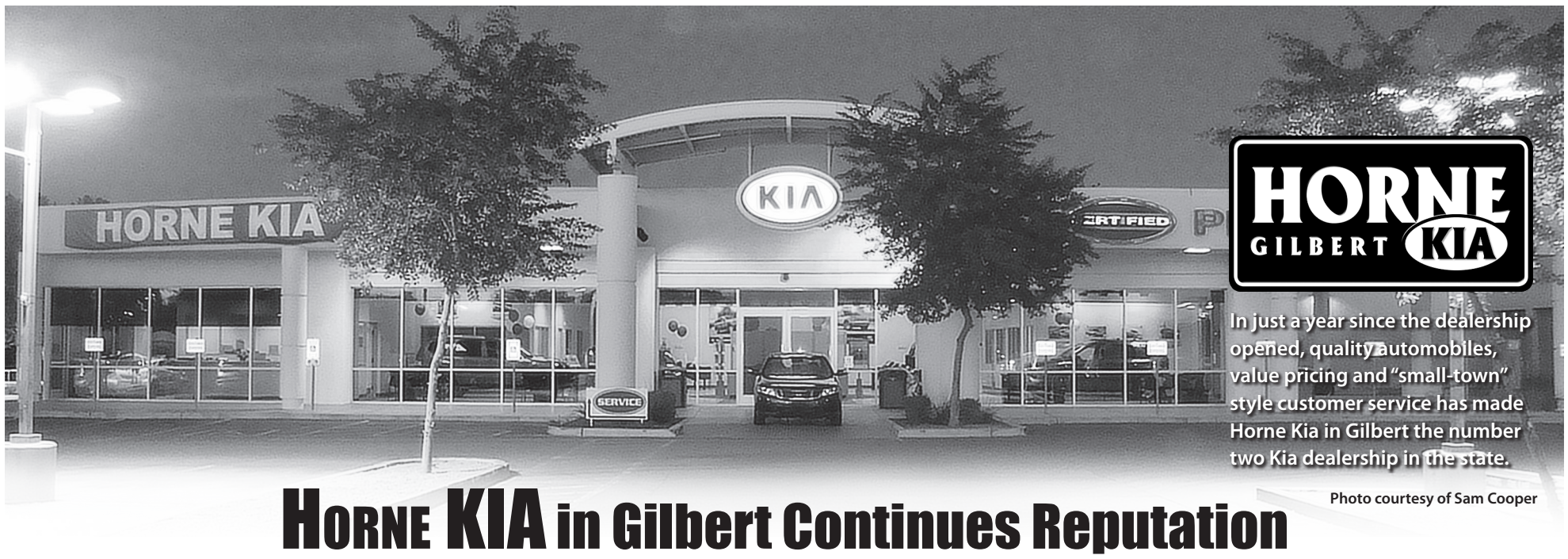

In just a year since the dealership opened, quality automobiles, value pricing and "small-town" style customer service has made Horne Kia in Gilbert the number two Kia dealership in the state.

Photo courtesy of Sam Cooper

Horne KIA in Gilbert Continues Reputation for Quality Products and Service

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Horne Auto Group is known across the state for upright business practices and first-rate customer service. Now, that same reputation permeates their newest enterprise at Horne Kia in Gilbert, where, just a year since they opened, the dealership has already been recognized as the number two Kia dealership in the state.

The Horne family has been in Arizona for more than 100 years. For many years, Robert Horne was a partner with Henry & Horne, PLC, the firm co-founded by his father, Gail, and Arizona's largest independently owned accounting firm.

Robert's first foray into the automobile business was in 1991 in Show Low, Arizona, where he opened a dealership in hopes of furthering the business ethics he had learned from his dad and, through his own business, pass those practices on to his sons.

From that small start, Robert Horne and sons—Aaron, Adam, Andrew, and son-in-law Martin Jones—have expanded the business across Arizona with dealerships that include the Horne Auto Center (Chevrolet, Cadillac, Subaru) and Horne Motors in Show Low; Horne Ford (Ford, Lincoln, Mercury) in Nogales; Horne Motor Company (Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, GMC, Pontiac, Buick, Nissan) in Globe; Horne Chevrolet in St. Johns; and Horne Hyundai in Apache Junction.

The Kia dealership in Gilbert opened in late summer 2009.

Sam Cooper, general manager, says, particularly with the current economy, "It's good to be with Kia. They have a good reputation for value and are committed to building a quality vehicle. Their product has improved every year."

In addition to top-quality cars, Sam says people appreciate the superior customer service..

"People see the Hornes' conservative values and the 'small town' way they do business, always treating other people the way they like to be treated."

He says after 25 years of being in the car business, he knows it's not always the case, but, "Here," he says, "they do what they say they're going to."

Horne Kia is also "very aggressive on price," Sam says. "All our used cars are at market or below, and that value pricing carries over into our service department as well."

Their service department offers the full range of services on all makes and models—including brake jobs, battery replacement and oil changes—typically at lower prices than at well-known chain repair shops.

"We also price match on our tires, so we guarantee you are getting the lowest prices."

"Plus we have doughnuts and popcorn every day," Sam laughs.

"Bottom line, we're the real deal. We're in business to serve our customers and to build our business through customer retention," he says. "That's why in just a year we went from just starting out—from 0—to number two in Arizona."

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Time to Blossom
Continued from pg. 16

make this conference better," says conference organizer, Debbie Forrest.

Attendees from last year's "Time to Blossom"—a five-day conference that attracted 250 young LDS girls between the ages of 11 and 16—say the event exceeded all expectations. Girls said they attended looking to "gain confidence," "bond with other girls" and "just have fun" and "to build my testimony."

For Alyson Richardson, of the 61st Ward in the Mesa Arizona East Stake, it came down to personal growth and wanting the experience of a lifetime.

The girls and their parents say they got all this and more.

One mother wrote, "As it came to an end, I could tell that my daughter walked a little taller and had more confidence in herself. She loved the conference and she really wants to go again next year. I am so thankful that she was able to have this experience and grow

Continued on pg. 19

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AZ Saints Reach Out to Small Branch in Croatia

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Nanci and John Wudel's anniversary trip to Europe gave Latter-day Saints in Arizona a chance to reach out to a small branch in Croatia.

Croatia, once known as Yugoslavia, is an independent country. Green and mountainous, it is the home of Kresimir Cosic, who started his basketball career there, then played college basketball at Brigham Young University in the 1970s. Cosic joined the Church while at BYU. After college, rather than playing professional basketball, Cosic returned home, taking the gospel with him and ultimately converting family and friends and starting the Church in Croatia.

Photo courtesy of Nanci Wudel

Kristina Mestrov (l) a member of the Croatian Branch and whose full-time job is to translate the scriptures and General Conference talks into Croatian for the Church, was the guide and translator for Nanci (center) and John Wudel of Mesa, who recenlty visited the branch there.

When John and Nanci, of Mesa 30th Ward, Mesa East Stake, realized their schedule would put them in Croatia on a Sunday, they arranged to attend church there.

Sister Wudel says, "We also had the idea to take them a few things to share our testimonies of the gospel and to reach out to these wonderful people."

When Nanci mentioned her idea to Laura Flores, of the Hawes Ward, Boulder Creek Stake, Laura jumped at the chance to help. A native of Costa Rica, Laura knows what it is like to live far from the Salt Lake City-headquarters of the Church and to have limited access to Church materials.

"When you live outside of the United State and you are LDS, you think Salt Lake must be the most special place in the world," she says.

Laura and her husband, Walter, have four children and have been in the United States for seven years.

"It's very different. It's the same gospel, of course, but we don't have that many materials and resources in Spanish, but we have a lot more than they do in Croatia."

Laura volunteered to use her scrapbooking skills to make small books with pictures of Christ for the Saints there.

Another group of women eagerly contributed their talents as well. Elaine Huish, a member of the Westwood Ward, Maricopa Stake, is the Mesa Eas-

Continued on pg. 19

Photo courtesy of Nanci Wudel

Two members of the branch in Croatia, show the bags that were made by volunteers from Arizona and filled with donated items, pictures of Christ and of President Monson and other Church materials, and delivered to the Saints in Croatia by Nanci and John Wudel of Mesa.

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AZ Saints Reach Out to Croatia
Continued from pg. 18

ter Pageant Costume Director.

When she and her staff heard about the project, they donated their own personal resources to help. "They all sew so well, so we all just whipped up some lovely cloth gift bags," Sister Huish says.

Photographer Mark Mabry donated prints from his "Reflections of Christ" collection and granted Nanci permission to duplicate the music-video slideshow;" Steve Puhlman translated the photo captions and the DVD label into Croatian; and Soltec Video Transfers gave Nanci a significant discount on dubbing the DVDs.

Nanci says their Croatian e-mail contact, Kristina Mestrov, told them the Croatian branch typically had only about seven people at Sacrament Meeting, but the Wudels left home with an extra suitcase packed with 25 gift bags.

"Apparently, Elder Jake Rhodes, the acting branch president, must have spread the word that we were coming—because the little room was packed. There were exactly 25 people there," Nanci says. "Isn't that amazing that we had exactly 25 bags with us?"

The Wudels hadn't told anyone beforehand that they were bringing gifts; apparently the members simply wanted the contact with Latter-day Saints from the United States.

At the end of the meeting, "Elder Rhodes asked me to bear my testimony and to tell about what we had brought," Sister Wudel says. "I didn't pull everything out of the bag, just a few things—the framed picture of President Monson (and they audibly 'oo'ed'), the little scrapbook and DVD (and they almost applauded), the family pictures, which brought more sounds of 'delight,'" Nanci says. "Then I told them about the U.S. candy, and a 14-year-old boy on the front row said the only word he knew in English, 'YES!'"

Nanci explained that as sweet and delicious as the candy is, the things she shared in the bags bring much sweeter rewards and blessings in their lives.

"After the meeting, the missionaries helped pass out all the bags and the members just kept coming up to us and thanking us," she says. "The Spirit was there so strong. It was so clear that the Lord wanted these great people to have the items in these bags. The whole experience was so beautiful and I'm just glad we could play a small part in it."

Time to Blossom
Continued from pg. 17

from it."

Like last year, this year's sessions will be packed full of fun activities, such as a night with the Jester'Z comedy team, an "all-girls" dance and fashion show; as well as lessons on poise, posture and grooming; opportunities for service; testimony-building experiences and workshops presented by some of the top youth speakers in the Church.

Among the presenters for the two sessions this year will be American Idol finalist Brooke White, author and EFY speaker Brad Wilcox, author and motivational speaker John Bytheway etiquette specialists Nanci Wudel and Vivian Cline, body image specialists April Price and Rachel Stewart.

The organizers of the "Time to Blossom" conference—two women from Mesa, Debbie Forrest, who co-founded and directed the original BYU Women's Conference in 1976, and Carla Jorgensen, a certified life coach—say their desire is to strengthen every girl who attends and help them be better prepared to face today's challenges.

They say, "The main goal of the conference is that when these girls leave, that they will truly know their worth and truly know that each of them is a special daughter of our Father in Heaven and that they would see themselves the way our Father in Heaven and the Savior see them—and that they would see others in that same way."

Lacey Nymeyer, 2008 Olympic Silver Medalist, who was one of the presenters last year and who is scheduled to speak again, says the conference gave girls "a great opportunity to come and to feel empowered and to learn that they don't need to measure themselves by the world's standards. If they feel self-worth within, they won't have to look for outside approval."

"Time to Blossom" registration is underway and slots are filling for the two summer sessions, one on June 20 to 24 and the second June 27 to July 1. The venue for the conference is the new Hyatt Place Hotel at 1422 W Bass Pro Drive in Mesa.

For complete details or to register for this year's "Time to Blossom" young women's conference, visit www.timetoblossom.com.

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Letters to The Beehive

Dear Beehive,

A big thank you for the feature article by Cecily Markland published in the September issue of The Beehive about my music writing experience for the Ukraine Temple Dedication. Cecily is not only an excellent writer but was so personable when she interviewed me over the telephone. Now that we have returned home, I must say that attending the dedication and participating in the orchestra was certainly a once in a life time experience!

I've received calls from readers expressing their congratulations and compliments on the nice article. Because The Beehive Newspaper reaches out to so many, I've been able to reconnect with people I have not heard from in years. Once again, thanks a million!

Best,

Kathleen Holyoak

Composer/Arranger

Arcadia Ward, Scottsdale Camelback Stake

Dear Beehive,

I admit that Sister White and I felt some trepidation in submitting to an interview for The Beehive. We have not been featured in many articles, but inaccuracies in those few made us wary. We really appreciate the accuracy of your reporting. We also enjoyed the other articles in The Beehive. We found them to also be objective, well written, and very informative.

Sister White and I arrived in Arizona just as an issue of The Beehive was published. It was a great asset to our efforts to get to know the area and the people, and each subsequent issue has been equally helpful. Thanks for what The Beehive contributes to the LDS community, and for the inspiration it provides to us as we seek to find the best ways for the Visitors' Center to also contribute.

Sincerely,

Elder Wesley White

Mesa Temple Visitors' Center Director

Dear Beehive:

I just read the article "Writing your Life History" in the last issue of The Beehive. Thank you for this article and the excellent sources you recommend to help your readers write their personal history. I plan to share it with the members of my High Priest quorum.

Thank you again.

Serge Ainsa

Prescott Willow Creek Ward

Dear Beehive,

The article in The Beehive about my mother and about The Carol of Christmas, the book about her life was fantastic. Thank you so much for this wonderful privilege to share my mother's faith-promoting story. You are truly an answer to my prayers to have Mother's life story available to the LDS members in the Southwest.

Thank you -Thank YOU!

Marcia Kauffmann Clark

Author of The Carol of Christmas: The Life Story of Christmas Carol Kauffman

Del Rio Ward, Tempe Stake

Send Us Your Thoughts!

The Beehive wants to hear your thoughts about our articles and what you'd like to see in the paper. Please send your comments via email to: **info@arizonabeehive.com**

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By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

ARIZONA VIRTUAL ACADEMY SM

offers "best-of-all-worlds" educational options

When it comes to education, many Arizona parents find that Arizona Virtual Academy (AZVA) offers options that allow them to tailor a program that best fits their needs and the needs of their children.

Megan Henry, AZVA's Head of School, says, "Families choose AZVA for a variety of reasons."

Some want an additional challenge and acceleration for their children. Other families have children with unusual schedules, like competitive athletes; while, other families look to AZVA to meet the needs of students with social concerns or with chronic illnesses who cannot be around children in the traditional day-to-day setting.

Megan says AZVA's recent changes have upgraded the total educational experience and have added even more flexibility and alternatives for families.

Since its beginnings in 2003, parents have been drawn by the opportunity AZVA affords them to take part in their children's education as well as the excellent curriculum provided by K12, a leader in standards-based curriculum for virtual schools. They also appreciate the outings and "extracurricular" activities organized by AZVA.

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Continued on pg. 23

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Book Provides Warning and Simple Wisdom about Economic Downturn

Long-time insurance agent and businessman, conservative thinker and concerned father and grandfather, William R "Bill" Cunningham began studying everything he could about the country's financial downturn—and what to do about it.

Bill, of the Grandview 2nd Ward, Mesa Central Stake, where he serves as an assistant Scoutmaster and Primary teacher, set about to arm himself through countless hours of study and reading about how the economy works. From that in-depth research, he compiled a small book, mostly as a warning to his children and a way to help them navigate the current economy.

Yet, even before he had it ready to distribute to his children, others caught wind of his endeavor and began asking for copies themselves. Bill was encouraged to make it available to a larger audience who could benefit from the compilation of ideas, easy explanations and "what to do about it" conclusions he provides.

He says his book—*A Warning to My Children: Why We Are Financially "Upside Down" and How to Prepare for "What's Coming*" (Inglestone Publishing)—explains, "the right approach to what to do in our current upside down market." The cover price is $11.95, but the book is now available an introductory special of $10. To order or for helpful quotes and tips, visit www.awarningtomychildren.com.

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Arizona Virtual Academy
Continued from pg. 22

and the largest virtual school in Arizona, AZVA provides experienced teachers who review assignments, give direction, hold scheduled conferences each month, and are available at any time for students or parents to ask questions.

"In the past, our teachers were generalists," Megan says. "We are now looking at our teachers as more 'content specific,' whether that be reading or math or other content. This is to ensure our teachers can focus and can become masters of that area," Megan says. "It's allowed us to provide a lot more direct instruction and subject-specific instruction to our students."

In another exciting development, Megan says, AZVA has partnered with Valley YMCAs to create what she calls "hybrid centers" for learning.

"We've opened centers at 15 Valley YMCA locations, staffed with AZVA site directors. They are actually drop-in learning centers," she explains.

She says some students "drop in" for one afternoon a week. Those who attend the site three or more times a week receive a free membership to the YMCA.

Megan says, "We're so excited about this new option and we're seeing that it is helping so many families."

"It's helped us be able to be even more accommodating to the needs of families. If they want solely virtual education, we have that. If they want a blended approach, we have that. If five days a week at a drop in site meets the needs of families, we now can offer that too."

Informational meetings with gingerbread-house making contests are being held the first part of December to acquaint parents with these new options.

For information about these events or for more details about Arizona Virtual Academy visit: K12.com/AZVA or call 602.476.1320.

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Celebrate the Life of Christ in Lights and Music at the Mesa Temple Gardens Light Display

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Each year, for more than three decades, the annual holiday lights display in the Mesa Arizona Temple Gardens has beckoned to Church members and their families as well as to members of the community to come together to *Celebrate the Birth of Christ in Lights and Music*.

According to the president of the Christmas Lights committee, Dee Hobbs, the event is specifically designed to convey a message of peace and goodwill and to share the true message and the wonder of the Christmas season.

The largest known volunteer-driven Christmas lights display, it was started more than 30 years ago as a gift to the community by local Church leaders.

"It requires a huge volunteer effort each year and many hours of service," Brother Hobbs says, as families, members of young adult wards and others spend more than 10,000 volunteer hours to create the display each year.

Lights are hung in unique and interesting patterns, some in the gardens along the ground, and others high overhead in the tall palm trees. In recent years, many of the lights have been replaced with new halogen-bulb lights, so the display is even more luminescent.

In addition to the stunning lights display, outdoor displays and nightly concerts are offered in the Temple Gardens, all provided free of charge every night for more than a month during the holidays.

Included in the outdoor displays are a large nativity and the life-size repli-

Continued on pg. 25

Photo by John Power (Biltmore Photo)

For more than 30 years, the Mesa Temple Garden Christmas Lights Display has been provided as a gift to the community and a way to invite all to "Celebrate the Birth of Christ in Lights and Music."

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2010 TEMPLE LIGHTS CONCERT SCHEDULE

Nov 26	Harmony Sounds - Women's Vocals
Nov 27	The Kidman Sisters
Nov 28	Tempe Community Chorus
Nov 29	Beth Lewis and Ron Sirrine - Soprano and Pianist
Nov 30	Fountain Hills Community Chorus
Dec 1	LIGHT - Entertainment Company
Dec 2	One Flock - Cross in the Desert, United Methodist Choir
Dec 3	Highland High School Choir
Dec 4	Taylor Junior High School Teen Tones
Dec 5	Chandler/Gilbert College Singers
Dec 6	Notations - Women's Song and Dance Group
Dec 7	YaMan - Jazz Group
Dec 8	Poston Junior High School
Dec 9	Debbie West Coon - Vocalist
Dec 10	George Dyer and Daughter
Dec 11	Lokahi O'Phoenix - Multi-Cultural Group
Dec 12	Gilbert Stake and St. Annes Catholic Church
Dec 13	Westwood High School Honor Choir
Dec 14	Shepherd Junior High School Voce Choir
Dec 15	Mountain View High School Chorale
Dec 16	The Chordaires Chorus of Sun Lakes
Dec 17	Four in Accord - Men's Quartet
Dec 18	Spirit of Phoenix - Men's Barber Shop Singers
Dec 19	Grace United Methodist Church Chancel Choir, Canterbury Bells and Grace Family Ringers
Dec 20	The Robin Harris Family
Dec 21	Red Mountain High School Brass Quintet
Dec 22	Christian Dance Company
Dec 23	The Dutson Family
Dec 24	Jordan Bluth - Tenor Vocalist
Dec 25	The Tim Filichia Family
Dec 26	MC6 - Men's Vocal Group
Dec 27	Coro Hispaño - Hispanic Choir
Dec 28	Lakes Chorale
Dec 29	Tempe Institute Choir
Dec 30	Chris and Aubrey Denton
Dec 31	Mesa Missionary Choir

Mesa Temple Garden Lights Display
Continued from pg. 24

cas depicting Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem and showing the Biblical prophet Isaiah, who prophesied of Christ's birth.

Inside the adjacent Visitors' Center are exhibits of international nativities, including large sets by well-known artists and a unique collection of miniatures as well. The nativities are different each year, representing various countries and artisans from around the world.

The opening ceremony and official lighting will be Friday, November 26. Two members of the Phoenix Cardinals team—Quarterback, Max Hall, and Offensive Lineman, Deuce Lutui, who both attended high school in Mesa—have been designated for the honor of flipping the switch to light this year's display.

Following the lighting ceremony, the gardens will be lit from 5:30 until 10 p.m. each subsequent night through New Years' Eve, January 1, 2011. Free half-hour concerts featuring a variety of groups and musical styles, will be presented at 7 p.m. each evening through December 31. A complete list of concerts is published in this edition of the Beehive or can be accessed online at www.mesachristmaslights.com.

During the weeks of the lights display, the adjacent Visitors' Center will open at 10 a.m. and stay open until 10 p.m. each day during the lights display. In addition to the international nativity exhibit, the Visitors' Center features a 13-foot marble replica of the original Christus sculpture, audiovisual presentations, exhibits, films and dioramas that include "God's Plan for His Family" as well as a 10-minute film depicting the birth of Christ.

The Mesa Arizona Temple and Visitors' Center, located at 525 E. Main Street, has free parking available in adjoining parking lots or on neighboring streets. For more information about the Temple Garden Christmas Lights Display call 480.964.7164 or visit www.mesachristmaslights.com.

Acclaimed East Valley Mormon Choral Organization Announces Holiday Concert

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

In 2009, hundreds of East Valley musicians brushed up on their singing and dusted off their instruments, preparing to audition for the new East Valley Mormon Choral Organization. Their debut season included concerts at the Mesa Arts Center and Gammage Auditorium, and, within a year, EVMCO has grown into a that is 500-members strong and growing.

"We've not only grown in size, but our already top-quality talent have worked hard individually and collectively to help us create a phenomenally powerful performing force," says co-founder Brett Stewart.

The highly praised organization will share their talents this holiday season, with EVMCO's annual Christmas Spectacular, "All the Bells on Earth Shall Ring," on Saturday, December 4 at the Mesa Arts Center. The event will feature two concerts in one evening, one at 5 p.m. and the other at 7:30.

Conducted by co-founders Brett and his brother, Brandon Stewart, EVMCO teaches and expects excellence in high-quality sacred and classical music. EVMCO is part of the world's largest choral/orchestral organization, *Mormon Choral Organizations of America*, and welcomes musicians of all faiths. The East Valley group consists of a refined 200-voice adult choir, four professional youth choruses and a symphony orchestra.

The group's December concert will feature holiday favorites for choir, orchestra and bells, including music by Eric Whitacre and T.L. Victoria, selections from "The Polar Express," Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," and dozens of carols celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Tickets are available at www.mesaartscenter.com. Also, see the EVMCO ad on page 33.

Community Invited to "Messiah" Sing-Along

Two stakes are inviting area Latter-day Saints and any other interested members of the community to get in the Christmas spirit by participating in Handel's "Messiah" sing along.

The Hermosa Vista and Citrus Heights stakes will host the community sing along on Sunday, December 12, at 7 p.m. at the LDS chapel located at 2549 N. 32nd St. in Mesa (between Ishikawa Elementary School and Stapley Junior High).

Music scores will be available or participants may bring their own. Returning as director will be Mark Denton, chair of the music department from Chandler Gilbert Community College. Concert master will be Dr. Walt Temme, orchestra director from Mountain View High School. A full orchestra and soloists will be provided. Following the program, refreshments and additional holiday entertainment will be provided. Sunday (dressy casual) dress is requested.

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From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

"For of you, it is required to forgive"

I learned my lesson in Primary last week.

I was supposed to be the teacher. Yet, there, surrounded by seven-year-olds, I was very much the student.

I had read the lesson manual, reviewed the suggested scriptures and gathered all the recommended visual aids. What I wasn't prepared for was to have the Spirit there in such abundance, to be schooled myself in quite such a profound and moving way.

Perhaps you know the kind of instruction I'm talking about, the kind that occurs not because of any particular words that are spoken, but because of a unique orchestration of timing and personalities, of coincidence and recognition—those "reasoning together" moments that awaken your very soul and, somehow, change you—right down to your very DNA.

A tall order for Primary, I know. But, somehow, that's pretty close to what happened.

The lesson topic was forgiveness. And, I couldn't have asked for a more perfect setup and object lesson than what happened in opening exercises. I didn't see the whole thing play out, but I pieced it together from what happened in the aftermath.

We had been standing to sing an upbeat, "get-your-wiggles-out" song and were settling back into our seats, when I noticed a little girl sitting in the row in front of us had broken into tears. Quickly, a teacher came to her rescue, bent beside her and then took her hand and led her out of the room. There were whispers, something about a chair being moved; I heard a name said and perhaps a finger being pointed at one of the girls in my class. Like I said, I don't remember all the details, it happened much too fast and there was too much going on in that brief little flurry.

Still, what I did see was the reaction of the girl in my class. She obviously had been accused, and, perhaps she had moved the other girl's chair. Yet, as I saw her crestfallen look and watched her slide down in her chair, hang her head and fight back tears of her own, I knew that if she had moved it, it wasn't to be mean or malicious in any way. From her reaction, I doubt that she was even aware she had done it.

Ah. And, that is where the lesson began. With a flood of empathy, I suddenly saw myself in that little girl. I could sense how bad she felt, not only because she was sorry that the other child was hurt or scared; but, even more because she had been misjudged and falsely accused. Many things can hurt in life, but that, that feeling that someone has misinterpreted your motives, judged you harshly—has failed to see your heart—is a singular emotion that carries with it a distinctive type of pain.

Yet, there, in that lesson on forgiveness was an answer for that little girl. And for me.

As I said these words that day, I knew\—to my very core—I knew—that there is one who understands and who can take away all hurt and pain.

He, the Son of God, the Savior of the world, who was beaten, spat upon, falsely accused; who was betrayed, tortured and made to wear a crown of thorns—He showed us how to find peace in all of it. He gave us the perfect pattern, in this simple plea: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

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Mesa Attorney Helps Clients NAVIGATE Financial Storms

By Evelyn Hendrix
The Beehive

After graduating from BYU, Clint Smith and his wife, Katherine, "basically flipped a coin" to decide where they would go. They moved to Mesa and Clint eventually completed a law degree at ASU. Like many new attorneys, he initially did "whatever came in the door: personal injury, divorce, and all kinds of litigation."

"Then I became interested in bankruptcy," he explains. "It's turned into a passion for me." Today he is known for his compassion towards people facing difficult circumstances.

"There are financial crunches that people get into that need to be resolved somehow," he says. "Many lose their homes to foreclosure and can't even feed their children."

"My goal is to make them laugh at least once before they leave my office," Brother Smith adds. "They are not bad people and it's not the end of the world. There are things that can help alleviate their suffering."

He sees people who never imagined that they would consider bankruptcy. In fact, he says, retirees who have worked hard their entire lives are losing their homes and savings.

"I think Arizona is at greater risk because of the nature of our economy," Clint says. "When [construction and real estate] crashed, it took everybody with it."

As a father of five, ages 15 to 30, Brother Smith counsels his children to make wise financial decisions and to ensure their homes are in order.

"I tell my kids, there are lots of situations where Church members say, 'If I'd only listened when President Hinckley said to get prepared.'"

Brother Smith also has opportunities to share his knowledge with members of Mesa's Kimball Stake, where he serves as Stake President. He is excited about a new curriculum, created in his stake and being taught in ward Sunday School classes, which explains sound financial principles.

"In the Book of Mormon, we are told that if we keep the commandments we shall prosper," he says. "We usually equate that with: if we pay our bills everything will be fine;" but, "when you keep the commandments, you have the spirit of the Lord in your house and that *is* prospering. It's not defined by wealth. That was a wonderful, life-changing insight for me."

The Arizona Business Magazine named him one of the state's top bankruptcy attorneys for 2010. Clint believes having Ethan Allen, Associate Attorney and Rutgers graduate, join his firm adds even more to what they have to offer.

In an economy where it isn't always so, Brother Smith is committed to providing competent and caring representation. "I think because of my foundation in the gospel and my efforts to try and be Christ-like, when people come in I really feel their pain."

For more information about Clint W. Smith, P.C., and his law firm, call 480-807-9300 or visit www.bankruptcyazlaw.com.

Photo by Kate Hamberlin

Caption: Clint W. Smith, P.C., a bankruptcy attorney and Stake President of the Mesa Kimball Stake says he is passionate about the many opportunities he has to help people through difficult financial circumstances.

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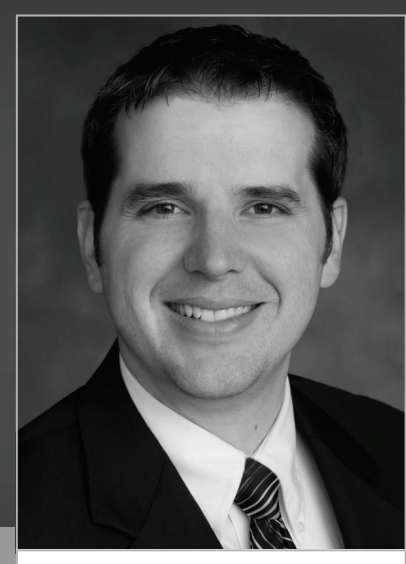

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A Single Story

by Michelle Thompson

Holidays Schmolidays

The holidays are a wonderful time of year. With decorations adorning every home, and family feasts a-plenty, it's difficult to not feel the spirit of brotherly love . . . unless you're single. Parties, mistletoe, lovers sharing gifts--it's enough to bring a hearty bah-humbug to even the sweetest of souls.

During past holiday seasons, in an effort to find solace from the humbug, I have given service to the needy and spent time with friends. However, even with my best efforts at forging a happy holiday path, by the end of the day I still found myself hiding in a closet, eating copious amounts of Costco cookies shaped like Santa, and repeating, "Day please be over; day please be over."

President Harold B. Lee once said, "Being single does not mean you have to put off being happy. Happiness does not depend on what happens outside of you, but on what happens inside of you. It is measured by the spirit with which you meet the problems of life." Normally, during the holidays, I would think, "easy for you to say." But that all changed when I met John.

John was the world's best neighbor. He was helpful, kind and handy. One evening John and I got to talkin'. In the midst of our conversation on politics and current events, John mentioned his wife. I smiled and said, "I didn't know you were married." He shyly smiled back, and in a soft voice uttered, "I *was* married. My sweetheart passed away a few months ago."

Although, John, by nature, was a happy man, I was sure that with the holidays right around the corner his cheerful demeanor would be marred by his feelings of loss. Instead, on Christmas morning I received the following message on my phone: "I am off fishing. For the first time in my life I have the lake to myself. Who could ask for a better Christmas?" When John returned he had with him the best catch he ever made.

Since then, John has remarried and his new wife has given birth to their three boys. Although his life is much different now, John still looks forward to fishing by himself every Christmas. When I asked him about his fishing tradition and why he didn't take his wife or boys with him, he said, "Christmas is a day of giving, and one day out of the year I give myself the gift of an empty lake and plenty of fish."

"Imagination is greater than intelligence." We've all heard this famous quote from Albert Einstein. I love it because it's a wonderful reminder that imagination establishes our ideals, and those ideals then establish expectations, and it's our expectations that drive us to achieve. However, over time I have learned that it is also important to remember that, although intelligence may not generate the drive to achieve, it does establish clear boundaries on what is required to obtain success.

No matter how much one may want to be swept away in the romance of the holidays, the truth of the matter is there are boundaries to that kind of success, and with a little pushing, shifting and negotiating, those boundaries no longer limit one to a closet full of Santa cookies, but instead open a door to new expectations, new adventures, and new traditions, or as Harold B. Lee puts it: "The happiness inside you."

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Michelle at: single.story@yahoo.com.

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An orphan named Annie, and her dog, Sandy, are placed in the lap of luxury for a week as a part of a publicity campaign for Oliver Warbucks. However, Annie's stay turns out to be much more than anyone had bargained for as she works her way into everyone's hearts. The classic songs include *Tomorrow, Easy Street* and *It's the Hard Knock Life.*

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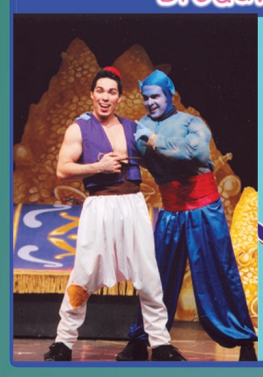

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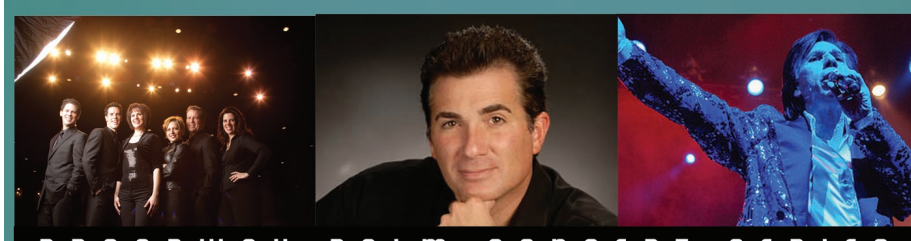

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Well-known LDS Musician, Janice Kapp Perry, Releases First New CD in Three Years

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

For Latter-day Saints around the world, the music of Janice Kapp Perry has lifted hearts, fostered testimonies and strengthened resolve to live the gospel.

Songs like "Love is Spoken Here" and "I'm Trying to be Like Jesus" are familiar to Primary children everywhere, while other numbers have been sung by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, The Mormon Youth Symphony and Chorus, as well as the country duo of Brooks & Dunn, Gladys Knight, The Osmonds–Second Generation and on the Oprah Winfrey Show after 9-11.

Her first album of original songs,

Continued on pg. 31

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Janice Kapp Perry
Continued from pg. 30

Photo Courtesy of Scott Hancock

Hailed as the most prolific songwriter in the Church, Janice Kapp Perry, well-known for her songs written for Primary as well as for the Tabernacle Choir and other celebrity groups, has recently released a new general interest album called, "He Brought Me Light."

"Where is Heaven," released in 1978, began an outpouring of music that has become part of the very fabric of the LDS culture. She has been hailed as the most prolific composer in the history of the Church, with more than 1,200 songs, 75 recorded albums and songbooks and four published volumes of *Inspirational New Hymns for Choir and Home* contain more than 120 hymns. Her hymn, "*As Sisters in Zion"* has been included in the LDS hymnbook and 10 of her songs are in the *Primary Children's Songbook.*

Even as Sister Perry's work has become known across the world, she says her sense of responsibility and the spirit with which she approaches her work, "has exponentially increased by the volume of mail I've received, saying things like, 'Here's how you song helped me.'"

Recognizing its power as a force for good, she also understands that the adversary can counterfeit anything that is good, "and that is never more true than it is in music," Sister Perry says. "It makes me very careful."

She works hard, even submitting her work to scrutiny by the Church's correlation committee, to ensure that "I don't say anything that is not doctrinally

Continued on pg. 32

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Janice Kapp Perry
Continued from pg. 31

sound."

Bottom line, she says, "I think people in the Church want plain and simple music that teaches the gospel."

Sister Perry says her initial goal was just that. "I wanted to add to what had helped me so much when I was young. The gospel is simple and direct and I wanted to add to the simple music

Image Courtesy of Prime Recordings, Inc.

The well-known and well-loved songwriter, Janice Kapp Perry, says she is happy to be recording again after a couple of years of focusing on other things. Her new release, "He Brought Me Light" is a "general interest" CD with a wide variety of music, she says.

Continued on pg. 33

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Janice Kapp Perry
Continued from pg. 32

of the Church."

Janice Kapp Perry, born in Ogden, Utah, currently lives in Provo, Utah, with her husband Douglas Perry. The Perrys have five children and 13 grandchildren. They have also had numerous foster children in their home through the years. In 2009 BYU-TV produced a 60-minute documentary called *Janice Kapp Perry: A Life of Service and Song.*

Now, after a three-year hiatus, "the first new album we've done for a couple of years" has recently been released. Called "He Brought Me Light," Sister Perry says it is "general interest" album with "a variety of songs, for sure."

For example, it has songs like "I Will Shine," based on Elder Uchtdorf's talk on creativity in last year's Women's Conference. She has taken some "old familiar Irish/Scottish tunes and put new LDS hymn lyrics to them." All in all, she says, the combination, with "wonderful accompaniment" and "top musical talent" is a CD Sister Perry is happy to share.

For more information, visit www.janicekappperry.com or call 800-377-6788.

AZ Big Train Operators Host Holiday Miniature Railroad Tour

Again this year, members of Arizona Big Train Operators are opening their outdoor railroad layouts to the public for tours during the Christmas season. These outdoor displays will be open for viewing on December 11, 12, 18 and 19 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Voluntary donations will be accepted at each residence and all monies collected will go to benefit Phoenix Children's Hospital and Cardon Children's Medical Center.

A total of 13 garden railroads in all sizes, large and small, and one hospital railroad layout will be shown at locations throughout the Valley. One that is of particular interest is Dennis Sirrine's layout, which has more than 4,000 feet of track.

Event organizers say, "This event offers family-style holiday fun for children of all ages to come out and enjoy. It is great to see the expressions on the faces of all ages when they see the miniature world of railroads at Christmastime."

For maps and directions to all of the sites, refer to the club's Web site at www.azbigtains.org and click on Holiday Train Tour.

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By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

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The fun, western-style event—with gold panning and gunfight reenactments, western shops and hot Dutch oven biscuits—is always a good fit for families, church and community groups.

Beginning the day after Thanksgiving and continuing each Wednesday through Saturday through New Year's Eve, the old West excitement adds Christmas lights and decorations and the Wrangler's "Cowboy Christmas Ball" show, complete with holiday favorites, cowboy tunes and their own brand of humor and audience involvement.

During the holidays, guest performers—including local groups and children's choirs—are featured on stage from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Performers who would like to participate are encouraged to inquire by calling 480-832-1539.

Again this year, Rockin' R offers a family-style New Year's Eve celebration, with all the fun and festivities, ending at a family-friendly 9:30 p.m.

Rockin' R Ranch is located at 6136 E. Baseline in Mesa. For more information, go to www.rockinr.net or to make reservations, call 480-832-1539.

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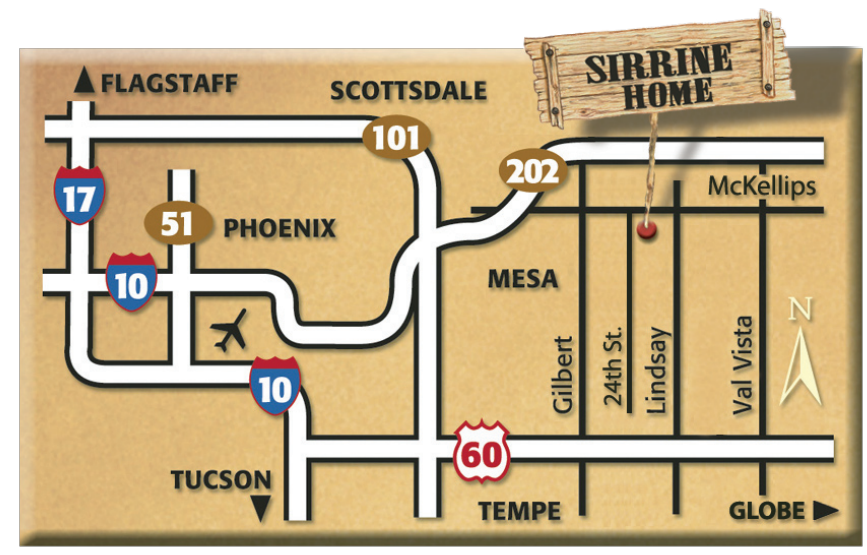

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By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

He speaks with a voice of authority. He's been there, and he knows firsthand the particular burdens of guilt and remorse that can come to members of the Church caught in the throes of addiction.

Yet, he also knows, from his own experience, that recovery is possible—and even probable—when principles of the restored gospel become real in a person's life and when the Savior is looked to as the source of healing.

Now, Roger Stark, of the Hokinson Ward, Vancouver Washington North Stake, helps others with addictions and compulsive behaviors of any kind to find recovery through what he calls

Continued on pg. 37

Cover design by Scott Jarrard

Roger Stark, addiction counselor and person of recovery, shares his insights and presents the tools, skills and how-tos for healing in his recently released book, *The Waterfall Concept: A Blueprint for Recovery.*

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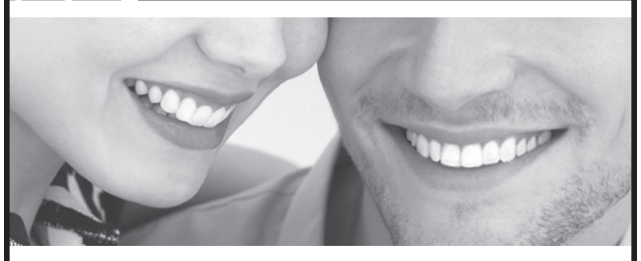

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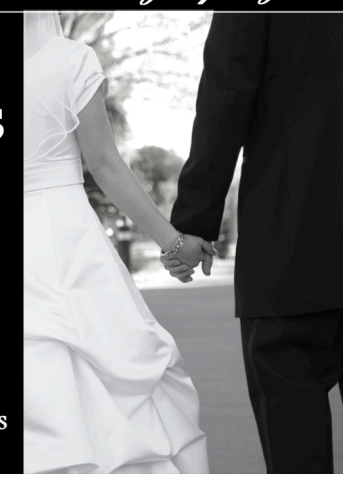

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The Waterfall Concept
Continued from pg. 36

The Waterfall Concept. That concept forms the basis for his work as an addiction counselor; it also is the subject of his recently released book.

His book, *The Waterfall Concept: A Blueprint for Recovery* "goes beyond the standard answers of how to recover and provides the specific skills you need to develop and the tools you need to find" to make recovery possible.

He says that while other sources may offer the recommendation to "turn your life over to Christ, *The Waterfall Concept* explains how to do that. It offers the rules, the helps you need manage life without addiction."

"I have read a lot of recovery books, but this one has me making progress I've never been able to make before"

Written to all those struggling with addictions, it "whether the struggle is drugs, alcohol, gambling, pornography or any other sexual addiction," his book is "a practical description of what must be done to recover," Roger says. It includes scriptures and quotes from General Authorities, examples from Roger's own experience and case studies that the author says are "almost magical" in the way they resonate with other addicts.

Addicts who have read early copies of *The Waterfall Concept* praise its approach. "I have read a lot of recovery books, but this one has me making progress I have never been able to make before," says Greg, a recovering pornography addict.

"I have lost track of how many times I've been through treatment, how many books I've read. But this one, this one is different," says Matthew, a recovering alcoholic, gambling and heroin addict. "Your explanations and descriptions have given me understanding that has escaped me until now."

A tremendous help for addicts, Roger's book is beneficial for family members, Church leaders and clinicians as well.

"It offers benchmarks that indicate to both the addict and their family when recovery is taking place," Roger says. "It helps others understand what's been beyond understanding before. It helps families make sense of addictive behavior, so they can start to have hope again.'

For leaders, *The Waterfall Concept* helps clarify ideas and approaches. "Some have been on the receiving end of really bad advice," Roger says. "The book gives leaders and clinicians what they need to be able to go to where the client is, to accept the person and to have empathy and understanding—do they can really start helping."

According to Clinical Child Psychologist, M. Gawain Wells, PhD, "This is a remarkable, well-written book for the LDS counselor working with addictions. In addition to a very worthwhile metaphor for addiction treatment, Roger Stark provides a storehouse of concepts and techniques that have already added measurable to my clinical tools. I am finding in my reading and re-reading of his book therapeutic wisdom for this particular client set."

Dr. Wells concludes, "More importantly, I finding a deeper understanding of how we must pay the price to come unto the Savior in order to truly be healed."

The Waterfall Concept is available at Pioneer Book and Gifts at 2820 E University Dr., #102 in Mesa and Latter Day Cottage, 7012 East Broadway Boulevard in Tucson. To order books online, schedule Roger Stark for a workshop or fireside or to arrange online counseling, visit www.waterfallconcept.org.

Ward Follows Guidelines for Open House Success

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

When the Amberwood Ward in the Chandler Arizona Alma Stake held an open house at the Hartford Building in Chandler in September, they did so with several goals in mind.

Alan Norton, first counselor in the bishopric says, "As a bishopric, we wanted to reach out to the community and share with neighbors some of the resources the Church has to offer that people may not be aware of—like employment resources, Scouting and youth programs."

They visited individual homes, and, "We had a very positive response, with 30 to 40 percent of the people agreeing to be added to the e-mail list or to be contacted about future events," Brother Norton says.

After a discussion at ward council about the possibility of hosting an open house, Brother Norton says, "I went online to see what other wards had done and what had been successful."

What he found was a complete 30- to 40-page outline on the Church's public affairs Web site, explaining exactly how to host an open house.

"It was really an answer to prayer," he says. "We basically followed it word for word. It even had checkboxes to mark off."

The results surpassed their expectations. "We were able to acquaint people with the Church, let them know that we are Christian and displace myths about the Church—all in a non-threatening, positive way."

"We had dignitaries attend, including the mayor of Chandler and city council members and a representation from the Catholic Church attend, and 65 to 80 or so of our neighbors," Brother Norton says, "and it was amazing how it helped our members to serve in this way and to reach out to our community."

To access the guidelines for hosting an open house, visit http://publicaffairs.lds.org/pa/eng/resources/public-affairs-programs

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Historical Woodruff "Friendship Quilt"

Resurfaces after 30 Years

Photo by Ann Zundel

Found in a dumpster 30 years ago by Jacob Zundel (right) and carefully stored in a cedar chest until last October, a Relief Society friendship quilt made for Missouri Brady Smithson in 1941 was recently returned to one of Missouri's 11 children, Bryan Lee Smithson (left) after Jacob's cousin, Gary Zundel, and his wife, Ann, conducted an indepth search to discover the quilt's origins.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Vibrant colors, intricate handwork and the hand-stitched designs are more than reason enough to admire one vintage quilt.

Yet, there's even more to this particular quilt. Indeed, it has a story of its own, one that began long ago in Woodruff, Arizona.

"My mother, Missouri Brady Smithson, was the Relief Society president in Woodruff from approximately 1934 to 1941, a calling that she dearly loved," says Bryan Lee Smithson, now a member of the Little Colorado Ward, Holbrook Stake.

In 1941, Bryan says, his mother was released when the family moved to a ranch in Holbrook.

"The Relief Society sisters decided to make mom a friendship quilt," Bryan explains. "Each sister made a block with her name and birthday embroidered on it. They put the blocks together, quilted it and presented it to my mother."

The blocks bear names that are part of Arizona heritage, names like Smithson, Turley, Packer, Shumway, DeWitt, Gardner, Bowler, Brinkerhoff, Ison, Heward and Wimmer.

Bryan, born in 1937, says, "This quilt became very special to me as my mother would tell me what it was and what it represented. Sometimes, when I was sick, mom would spread out this quilt, so I could go over each square."

Sometimes, they made a game of it.

"She would point to a square and I would explain where that sister lived in the community," Bryan says.

The quilt remained in Missouri Smithson's possession until she died.

"She always had the quilt with her. The last few years of her life, she rented an apartment one block west of the Mesa Temple so she could go to the temple each day. She lived there when she died on January 8, 1978," Bryan says. "This was where we lost track of this friendship quilt that meant so much to mom and her children, especially me."

Fast forward to October 8, 2010. Jacob Zundel, of Phoenix, who is disabled himself, had cared for his parents until his mother passed away in May 2010 and his 95-year-old father had entered hospice care. Jacob set about to de-clutter his home and prepare for the changes he knew would be coming. In the process, Jacob opened an old cedar chest and found, neatly tucked inside, a homemade quilt he had found long before.

It was in 1980, when young Jacob, searching for aluminum cans in a dumpster near 12th Street and Thomas Road in Phoenix, found instead a bright yellow, homemade quilt. It was filthy and worn, but Jacob took it home, laundered it and placed it inside a cedar chest—where it stayed for 30 years.

In October, when Jacob happened

Continued on pg. 41

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Young Man Shares Large Dose of TALENT as "Tiny Tim" in "A Christmas Carol"

Pictured with Dorman Smith, who will play Scrooge, is 11-year-old Alec Lewis, of the Lakeview Trails Ward, who was selected to play Tiny Tim in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" scheduled for December 1 through 23 at Gilbert's Hale Centre Theatre.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

With a ready smile and unassuming confidence, 11-year-old Alec Lewis, says, "When I stand up to get my Academy Award, I'm going to thank my grandma first."

Alec's grandmother, Becky Denison, of the Crystal Shores Ward, Gilbert Val Vista Stake, was first to suggest that he try out for a play.

That was in 2007 and Alec says, "I tried out for 'A Christmas Carol.' I got a call back, but I wasn't chosen. But it was so fun, I came back and tried again."

Successful with his second attempt, Alec's stage debut was in "The King and I" at Hale Centre Theatre in Gilbert in 2008. Following that, he appeared in "Willie Wonka" at the Queen Creek Performing Arts Center in 2009 and "Three Billy Goats Gruff" in the East Valley Children's Theatre production earlier this year. Also posted on YouTube is Alec's first film project, a motivational short called "The Race Final."

This Christmas season, audiences will again enjoy his acting and musical talents as he will take on the leading role of Tiny Tim in "A Christmas Carol" at Gilbert's Hale Centre Theatre.

He says acting "kind of comes natural. I've learned more during the few shows I did. I just keep learning more and I get better at every show."

"I study other people a lot," he adds.

A member of the Lakeview Trails Ward in the Gilbert Highland Stake, and a sixth grader at Greenfield Elementary School, Alec has ample opportunities to study human nature as acting is only one of the many interests he pursues. He takes piano lessons and is also active in Boy Scouts and in sports, including tennis, basketball and as a member of the Bengals flag football team.

His parents, Dean and Jodi Lewis, say Alec is a natural "go-er."

"I'm in awe of his talent," his mother says. "I don't know where he gets it, certainly not from me or his dad. It's kind of amazing to me that he can do what he does."

Jodi says, in addition to being talented, Alec has a kind heart.

"He's really a sweet boy. Very kind and caring," she says.

Alec says much of his attitude toward life comes from his growing testimony of the gospel.

"I can tell my testimony is growing as I'm listening and by the things I go through. It's growing as I'm learning more and more about it," Alec says.

His grandmother adds, "He is so excited about becoming a deacon. When he turned 11, the first thing he said to me on his birthday was, 'Only one more year until I'm a deacon.'"

Alec has tried to be immune from the peer pressure that others feel.

"I don't really care what other people think about me. It only matters what I think," he says, and adds that having good friends has helped.

"I'll still be friends with other people, but I spend most of my time with friends I know later are going to make good choices," he says.

Alec and the rest of the cast will present "A Christmas Carol" on December 1 through December 23 at the Hale Centre Theatre, located at 50 W. Page Avenue, in Gilbert. For times or to purchase tickets, call 480-497-1181 or visit www.haletheatrearizona.com.

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Two branches CELEBRATE cultural diversity

Photo by Hector Herrera

Decorations, displays and food representing 12 different countries were part of a special evening that brought together two Phoenix area Spanish branches for fellowship and to showcase their heritage.

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

Members of two Phoenix area Spanish branches recently gathered for an evening of food, dancing and fellowship designed to strengthen relationships and share cultures. Yesenia Lopez, activities chairman for the Pueblo Branch of the Skyline Stake, and Arturo and Marilyn Soto, activities chairmen for the Tierra Rica Branch of the Kimball East Stake worked together to organize the event.

"The Hispanic culture is so amazing, because it's not just one country. There are so many, from Central to South America, and to have such diversity come to celebrate and have a good time is awesome."

Decorations and food representing 12 different countries were provided by members from both branches. The more than 250 attendees were greeted by food-laden tables set against backdrops of flags, figurines and other items from the 12 countries, including El Salvador, Peru, Chile, Columbia, Argentina, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Spain and the Dominican Republic.

Food offerings featured several entrees to choose from, including posole from Mexico and Honduran-style quesadillas, along with a spread of tamales, enchiladas, taquitos, Spanish tortillas, a variety of salsas and much more. Also served was the U.S. fare of barbecue beef on buns.

Entertainment was also provided by branch members. Dance numbers were performed a family of Columbian heritage, by a mother and daughter of Peruvian descent, and several different Mexican dancers, to name a few. A group of Primary children also performed musical renditions on the violin. The evening ended with Hispanic music and dancing for the entire family.

A Beehive from Pueblo Branch, Vanessa Herrera, says she has enjoyed attending these type of cultural activities. ''I love sharing my culture and learning of new ones, and I love being Salvadorian. I love the dances of each of the different cultures,'' she says.

In addition to providing food and entertainment for everyone's enjoyment, Sister Lopez says the real purpose of the activity was to foster relationships.

"It was good to learn different cultures, but the goal was to get to know each other as brothers and sisters," she says.

Sister Soto echoes that. "We wanted to get the members involved with each other, to get to know the people. We are similar in so many ways, but we also have differences."

"It's also a great missionary tool,"

Continued on pg. 41

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Historical Woodruff Friendhip Quilt
Continued from pg. 38

upon the quit, he considered tossing it out. But, before he did, he asked his cousin, Gary Zundel, and Gary's wife, Ann, for their opinion.

"There was no second thought about what we needed to do," Ann says. The Zundels, members of the Glenview Ward, Mesa Kimball Stake, are currently serving as missionaries at the Mesa Regional Family History Center. Sister Zundel immediately recognized that the quilt held some historical significance.

She searched the 1930 Census records for Woodruff, "spent two days on Ancestry.com, went through the white pages, making calls to descendants of those names embroidered on the quilt, hoping I could find a descendant of the person for whom the quilt was made," Ann says.

Finally, one of her phone trails reached Bryan Smithson. Bryan, the 10th of Missouri Brady Smithson's 11 children, says, "What a wonderful shock."

Bryan figures that after Missouri died, her son, Bud, who lived in Phoenix, kept the quilt until he moved to Florida, leaving it behind with many of his other belongings. While no one may ever know the whole story, Bryan, who now has the quilt in his possession, says, "I am so grateful for Sister Zundel and her family who saved this family treasure and took the time to find me."

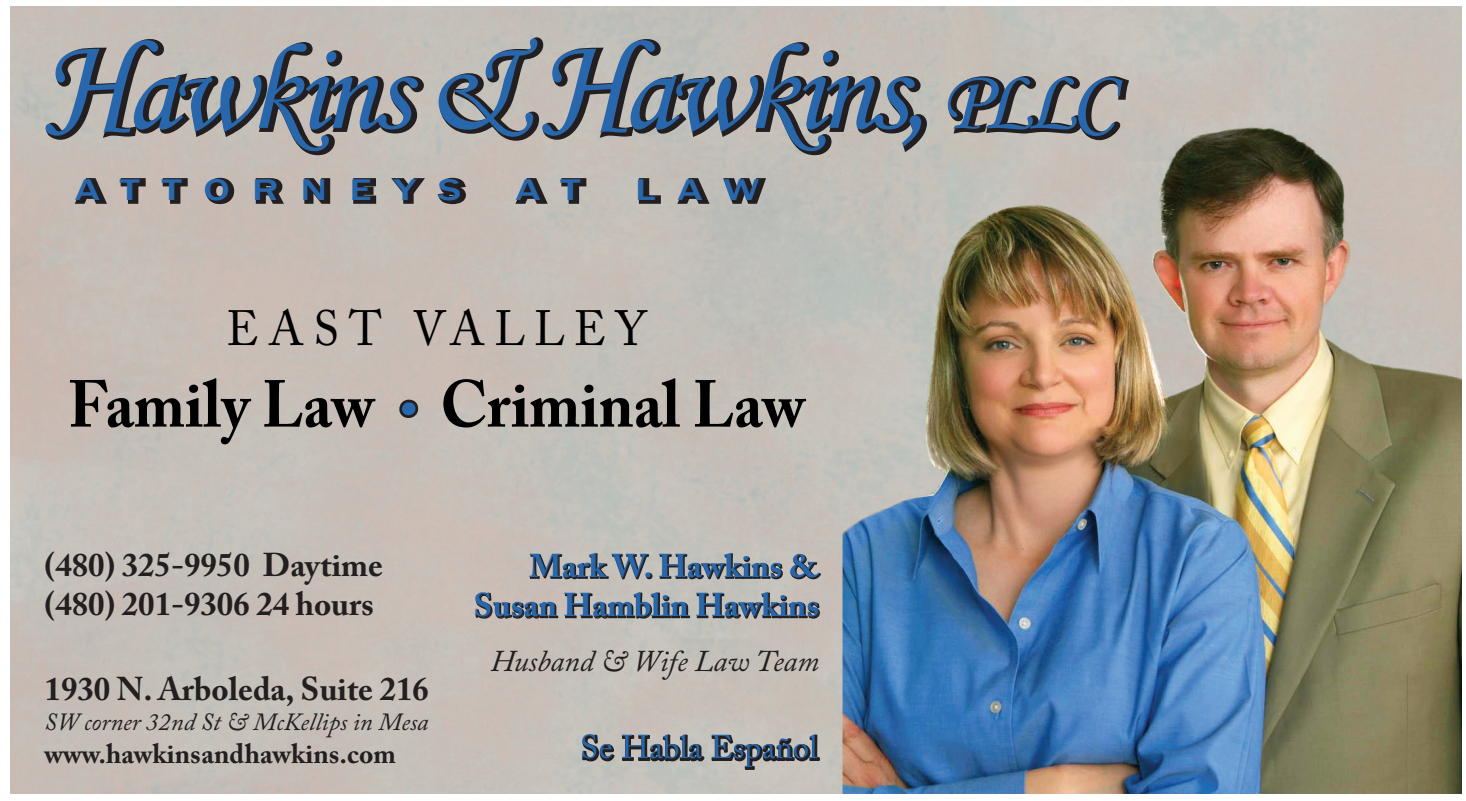
Branches Celebrate Diversity
Continued from pg. 40

Sister Soto continues. "I know of many families who brought nonmember friends or family members who are of Hispanic heritage."

While the activities chairmen were new and had not been involved in the past, the activity is one that has been done in the past and plans are to continue. "It's a lot of work to prepare and advertize such an activity, but it is one we will do again," says Sister Soto.

Photo by Hector Herrera

To celebrate their culture, members of two Phoenix area Spanish branches recently gathered for an special evening that included entertainment and dance numbers, complete with authentic dress, presented by several groups throughout the evening.



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Adoption Conference

Celebrates the Roles of Birthparents, Adoptive Parents & Adopted Children

Photo courtesy of Kelsey Stewart

The recent Families Supporting Adoption (FSA) conference, which was organized with the theme "Linked in Love: Celebrating Adoption Together" brought together people whose lives have been affected by--and blessed--by adoption, including (l-r) Kelsey Stewart, Tamra Hyde and Michelle Masterson.

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

Organized around the idea that birth families, adoptive families and those adopted have much to offer each other, a recent Families Supporting Adoption (FSA) conference held at the Tempe ASU Institute, recognized the three members of the adoption triad and the significant relationship they share.

"Linked in Love: Celebrating Adoption Together" was the theme of the regional conference.

An adoptive parent of one, Andrea Allen, who co-chaired the event with her husband, Josh, says, "Traditionally, FSA has only been attended by couples currently hoping to adopt or those who have recently adopted, though we recognized that many others are touched by adoption and should be included in our group. We have long sought to include birthparents especially, as well as adoptees, extended family members and couples who are parenting adopted children. There are so many families out there who have experienced the miracle of adoption."

The conference schedule reflected this desire to support all those touched by adoption. Sessions included a track for birthparents, with classes such as "What to Expect Post-Placement" and "Sharing Your Passion for Adoption." Multiple classes for adoptive couples included "Parenting the Adopted Child," "How to Communicate with Your Birthparents," and "Arizona Adoption Law."

Adoption options were showcased with trans-racial adoption and international adoption panel discussions, birthparent and birthgrandparent panels, and foster and adult adoptee panels.

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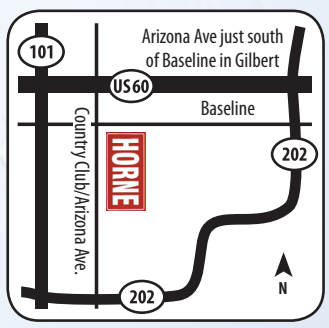

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Adoption Conference
Continued from pg. 42

FSA, organized nationally with a regional chapter based in Mesa, provides a network of support to those in the adoption community. FSA works closely with LDS Family Services (LDSFS) to build and strengthen families and they support and educate those seeking to adopt through LDSFS. FSA advocates a positive view of adoption in the community, through outreach programs to churches and schools to explain the benefits of adoption and influence birth parents to seek help from LDSFS. They also work to encourage the media to present accurate information about adoption.

Andrea says, "When we started with FSA (or rather the whole adoption process) we felt as if we were entering another world, a taboo world that was rarely talked about. FSA has brought to us an understanding, a knowledge that we are not alone, and that adoption is not a second rate way of building a family."

Southwest Area Group Manager of LDS Family Services, Matt Watson, said of FSA and the conference, "Many times people feel that they are different or 'not normal' because their family has developed in a nontraditional way. This organization helps normalize that experience and helps connect people with others who share in their unique journey. This conference reflects the collective, miraculous love of many wonderful people who have been touched by adoption."

This year's conference attracted more than 300 attendees, who were able to share in this community of knowledge, experience, and fellowship.

Andrea says, "[My husband and I] are currently in the 'finding' phase of our second adoption. Our daughter is 2½ and we plan to add to our family soon – in the Lord's time of course. We add our testimonies to those of countless others who consider adoption to be the perfect plan for their lives. Some hope for the miracle of conception, but we know that adoption IS our miracle."

Throughout the conference, others expressed similar testimonies and shared stories of their own "miracles," providing ample evidence that regardless of the part one plays in the process, adoption is worth celebrating.

For more information, visit these related Web sites: FSA: fsamesa.wordpress.com and the LDSFS site at: itsaboutlove.org.

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Writers

Association Looks Toward Upcoming 19th Annual Conference

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

American Night Writers Association (ANWA), a national writers group based in Arizona, has announced its 2011 Conference, scheduled for February 25 and 26. For the first time in its 19-year history, the conference will be a two-day event with workshops Friday afternoon and evening and a full slate of classes Saturday.

The conference will be held in the upscale Phoenix Crowne Plaza, which offers convenient airport shuttle and easy access to light rail.

The event is open to the public, and all who have an interest in writing are invited to participate and learn from specially chosen speakers and presenters, which include authors, editors, agents, publishers and a bookstore events manager.

Addressing the conference theme, "Writing at the Speed of Life," will be keynote speaker, Chris Stewart, well-known author of the *The Great and the Terrible* fiction series and *The Fourth War*.

Other presenters include young adult authors, Janette Rallison and Angela Morrison; children's author, Conrad Storad; non-fiction author, Laurie Schnebly Campbell; publisher, author, editor and publicist, Cecily Markland; and book event planner, Pinna Joseph, from Changing Hands Bookstore.

Photo courtesy of Valerie Ipson

Again this year, the American Night Writers Association will host an annual conference, which will include writing workshops, networking opportunities, book signings and more. Shown enjoying last year's even are participating writers and conference presenters, including (clockwise from lower left) Marsha Ward, Jeffrey S. Savage, Cindy Williams, Sara Fujimura, Krista Darrach, Aprilynne Pike, Aimee Morgan, Valerie Ipson and Patti Hulet.

This year, networking will take center stage as attendees will be afforded a rare opportunity to chat with conference

Continued on pg. 49

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Skyline Stake Holds Eighth Annual Humanitarian Day

By Tina Scott
The Beehive

Photo by Tina Scott

As the culmination of Skyline Stake's yearlong humanitarian efforts, stake members gathered for their annual Humanitarian Day in October, where, among other activities, they stuffed and completed the bears that had been cut from donated fabric and had been assembled by members throughout the year.

As the culmination of a yearlong effort, members of Skyline Stake in Mesa gathered on October 16 for their eighth annual Humanitarian Day. Among the completed projects were 250 hygiene kits, which will go to Arizona United for Change (AUC) to help some of the 3,500 homeless veterans in the Phoenix valley.

Inge Vandervoort, Skyline Stake humanitarian specialist, says it was Julie Beck, humanitarian specialist from the Patterson Ward, who came up with the idea to help the homeless veterans.

"All of us just take our freedom for granted and we never think of everything that went into it," says Sister Beck. "When I got this calling six months ago, the first thing I thought of was the soldiers and their need for help. And, then I found out about homeless veterans and gave that information to Inge. It never dawned on me that there would be that many homeless veterans just in this area."

Julie has two nephews and a brother currently serving in the military, and she says, "Them going overseas and seeing what they've given up with their families, brought home what the soldiers do for us every day; and they are doing it for people they don't even know."

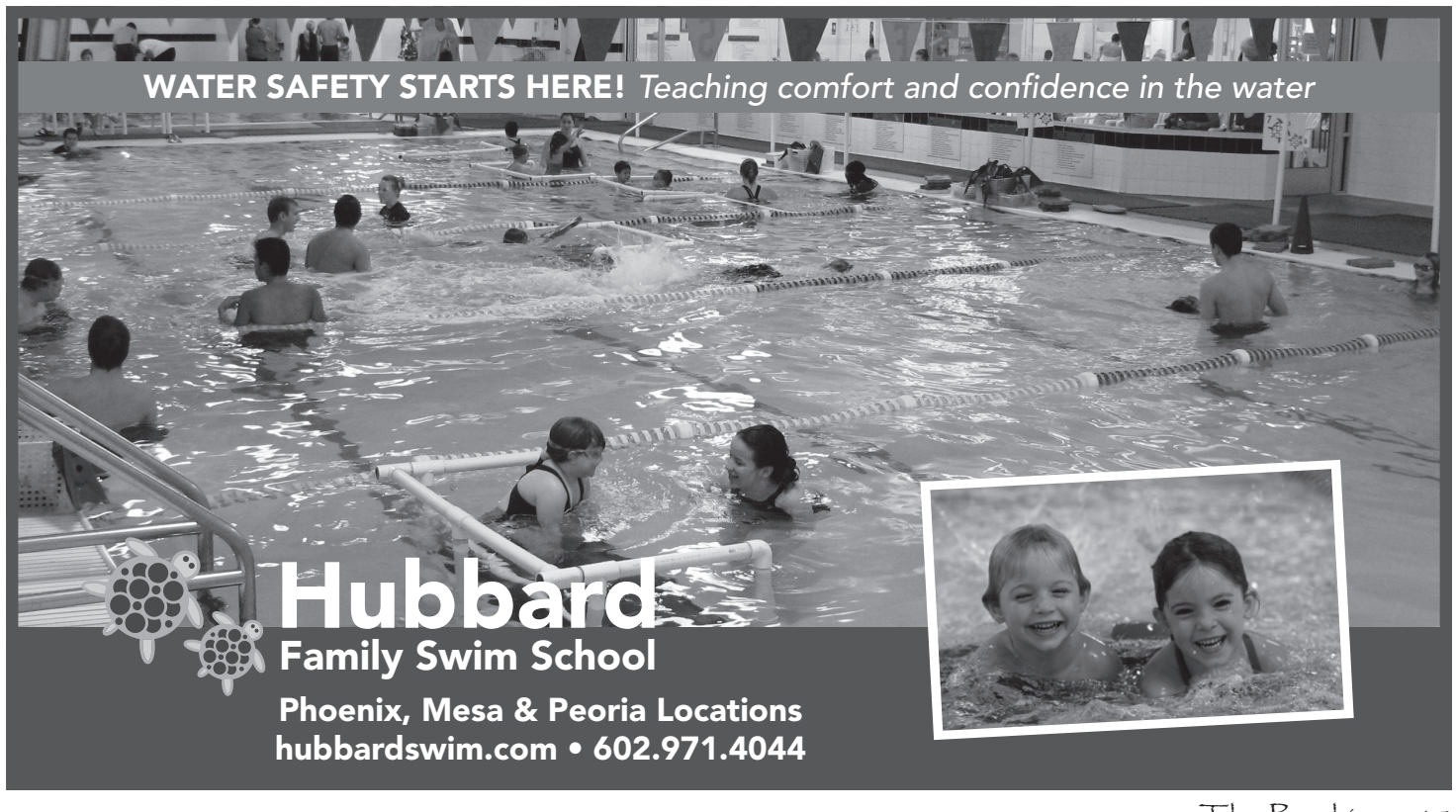
Besides the 250 fully assembled hygiene kits completed during the Humanitarian Day, another 50 kits still needing towels along with numerous boxes of surplus hygiene-related donations were also presented to AUC.

For each year's Humanitarian Day, Skyline Stake has a different main project, such as helping homeless veterans, along with a variety of other projects that are repeated annually.

"We have a food drive for the Apache Junction food bank, we have a blood-donor drive, we stuff teddy bears for the police and fire departments, we make tray favors for the Salvation Army; and that's all done on the same day," says Sister Vandervoort. "We also tie quilts for the LDS humanitarian center."

The end result of the day was approximately 1,600 cans of food; 50 pints of blood; 16 quilts; 500 beaded zipper pulls for Stitches of Love in Glendale; 75 thank you cards for the soldiers; and 300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches made for Paz De Cristo. Completed as well were ABC books for a Navajo Nation Head Start and 100 Salvation Army tray favors each for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. In addition, the 250 bears and 50 stuffed dogs, created by Dawn Funkhouser and her daughter from Hampton Ward, were donated to police and fire departments in outlying towns such as Globe and Superior;

"I can't even begin to tell you how much stuff there was," says Inge. She adds, "When we're fortunate enough to deliver these things personally, the thanks we get are unbelievable. People are just very, very appreciative of what we do."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Mickie Niland – A Passion For Politics

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

Photo by Cindy Williams

To better understand the political system, Mickie Niland of the Ray Ward, Gilbert Greenfield Stake, decided she needed to be more involved herself. She now studies the issues closely and also serves as a precinct committeeman.

Having struggled to better understand the political system, Mickie Niland of the Ray Ward, Gilbert Greenfield Stake, decided she needed to be more involved herself.

Mickie is now a precinct committeeman, the lowest elected political party position. As such, she is closest to the people, representing the registered Republicans in her district at the yearly county Republican meeting.

Sister Niland, wife and the mother of four adult children, says, "For most of my adult life I struggled to get voting information and often felt confused about where to turn for trusted information."

Two pivotal experiences helped her decide to get involved in politics. "The day before a local election four years ago, I realized I didn't know any of the candidates. My oldest daughter and I attended a forum. Three candidates and three citizens sat around a table talking. I was surprised. I had expected something much larger."

She adds, "When back home, I researched an issue on the Internet. It seemed that a candidate had misled me. I was furious that I had allowed myself to get into this position of having no time to learn the truth. I told myself 'never again.' I was going to start earlier understanding the issues."

Her second experience was an overwhelming impression that came while reading the Book of Mormon. Mickie says when she read Mosiah 29:26, where it says that evil could triumph if good people did nothing, "I had an impression that I was to stand for good by becoming involved in politics. I began to push myself outside of my comfort zone by watching the news."

Being politically active fits with Mickie's LDS beliefs and faith. "I feel that God had a hand in the development of our nation and we will be held directly accountable for what we have done to preserve our freedoms and keep our nation great. Actively living our religious beliefs, and keeping the commandments is a critical part of what we do to preserve freedom."

In her quest, Mickie has continued to look to the Book of Mormon for direction.

She says, "To protect myself and increase my discernment I decided to read the Book of Mormon specifically searching for the principles of liberty. I found this a very rewarding experience. I'm so thankful that God prepared this powerful book for us."

Sister Niland encourages others to become involved. "Educate yourself; study candidate's Web site. Be cautious of bias. Ask yourself what do they have to gain if the election goes their way? Where do they get the funding? Search out trusted sources or mentors. Find out who your precinct committeeman is. Contact them and get on their e-mail lists."

She adds, "Give money to candidates you believe in. You can work as a poll worker, a paid non-partisan position where you can help protect the integrity of our elections."

She understands Latter-day Saints have many demands on their time.

"Time is a huge factor in the limited involvement because Mormons are 'anxiously engaged' in many good things," she says, but adds, "Our privilege to be too busy to worry about politics came from the sacrifices of others who gave us the safety and freedom at high prices."

She adds, everyone can vote.

"Sign up for permanent early ballots to be delivered to your home. It's easier than waiting in line, especially with young families," Mickie says. "The most important thing one can do is vote."

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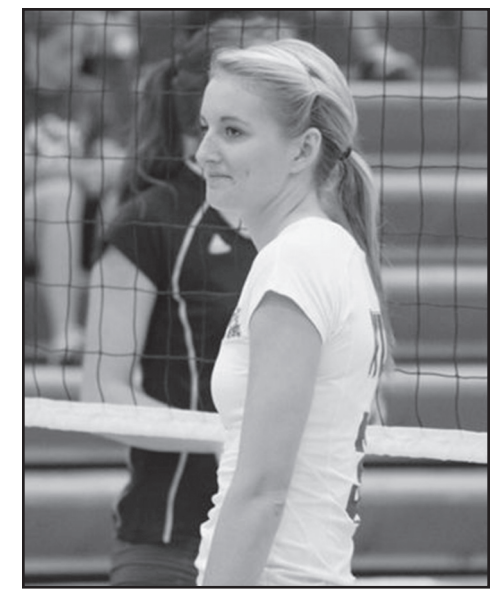

Pictures by Jill Hall

A graduate of Gilbert's Mesquite High School, Brookelyn Campbell is now demonstrating her well-honed skills playing as a starting setter on the Utah Valley University women's volleyball team.

By Evelyn Hendrix
The Beehive

Six-foot tall, Brookelyn Campbell is a beauty who turns heads wherever she goes. Yet, it's her athletic ability that has turned the heads of university recruiters across the western United States.

As a member of the varsity volleyball team at Mesquite High School in Gilbert for three years, Brookelyn was named to Arizona's All-Region Volleyball Teams as both a junior and senior. She also received an honorable mention on the 2010 State Team. Brookelyn served as team captain for two years and honed her skills as a setter.

Soon, recruiters were calling from universities in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada and Utah, including Brigham Young University. But, when Brookelyn visited Utah Valley University (UVU) in Orem, she knew she had found a home.

"I needed a place where I was going to be surrounded by good people," she says. "The coaches worked well with each other and set high standards for their athletes."

Though it is rare for a freshman to do so, Brookleyn stepped in as starting setter.

This past August, Brookelyn helped her team win the ASU Sheraton Invitational, where the highlight of the tournament was a win over ASU. Brookelyn was named the tournament's MVP. She was also chosen as Great Western Conference Player of the Week.

"Being only a freshman, this is a huge accomplishment for me and my team," says Brookelyn.

At the beginning of the season, UVU was ranked second in the conference. "And we are headed on the right path to win it all," she adds. A high point for the women was a big win over undefeated Utah State University.

"Volleyball is a big sport here at UVU and we get a lot attention and support," Brookelyn says.

She adds that her biggest support system is her family and she loves having them cheer her on.

"My family has been the biggest part of where I am today," she says. "My mom was always there for me no matter what. My dad taught me to never give up and give 100 percent in all that I do and to always be a winner." Brookelyn also credits her sister, Madison for teaching her to work hard and do her best.

Brookelyn's parents, Brett and Renae Campbell, have enjoyed watching all five of their children participate in sports.

"Brookelyn played soccer and fast-pitch softball when she was younger," explains Sister Campbell. "Soccer clubs were recruiting her."

As an eighth-grader, Brookelyn tried out for her junior high volleyball team and fell in love with the sport. "Brookelyn is very competitive when she is on the court, but is very mild-mannered and sweet everywhere else," Sister Campbell adds.

Brookleyn is studying early childhood education and wants to teach and coach. She would also like to play competitive sand volleyball someday. When she is not at UVU, she enjoys being home in Arizona with her family. The Campbells are members of the Vintage Ranch Ward in Gilbert's Greenfield Stake. Her older brother, Terran, is currently serving a mission in the Mexico Chihuahua Mission.

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Online Tool Helps Keep Kids

ON TASK

By Evelyn Hendrix
The Beehive

Chores. Music practice. Scriptures and prayers. Gregg and Kami Murset had tried everything to keep track of their family's "to-do" lists. With six children, ages 3 to 13, nothing seemed to work well and they were growing desperate.

Brother Murset, a certified financial planner, also was concerned about teaching his children the value of money and hard work.

"It's an epidemic," he says. "Kids are growing up these days without learning how to work." Convinced that their family was not alone in this dilemma, Brother Murset decided to create an online tool that even the youngest child could use.

"MyJobChart.com is technology," Gregg explains. "That's what kids like these days. Tech is cool. Paper on a refrigerator is not cool anymore and it doesn't engage anybody."

On this free Web site, parents can create a family account with a chore list for each child. The lists can be customized to include particular jobs with icons, making it "readable" for children who are too young to read words. Personal photos also can be uploaded to create custom icons.

"It's nice to be able to list 15 minutes violin practice," says Brother Murset, whose children also juggle cello and flute practice between chores. The site also can help children with chronic illnesses by reminding them to take their medications.

As fun as it is for young people to log on to MyJobChart.com, the real secret to its success is the built-in reward system. As each job is finished, the child earns a certain number of points, to be used to "purchase" a reward supplied by their parents: anything from extra TV time, a trip to a favorite restaurant or a bike ride.

"When a child earns a reward, the site sends you an e-mail or text message," says Brother Murset. "It reminds you that you need to deliver on your promise."

Photo by Mindy Evans

The entire Murset family, including (bottom, l to r) Sierra, 11; Adam, 8; Spencer, 6; Sydney, 10; (top, l to r) Sterling, 3, father, Gregg; Zach, 13; and mother, Kami; are among the hundreds of families who enjoy using the online job chart created by Gregg to help manage the many tasks and schedules of a family and help teach children about money.

While the rewards are "purchased," the premise behind MyJobChart.com includes three principles: save, spend and share.

"These are fundamental financial principles," Brother Murset says. The site teaches children that they can choose to share their earnings buy paying tithing or donating to an organization, such as Phoenix Children's Hospital or the American Red Cross.

Since its introduction in March 2010, 36,000 young people have signed up on MyJobChart.com, with 1,000 more being added every four to five days. The only information required to sign up is an e-mail address.

Brother Murset has refused to allow pop-up ads on his site; a fact that he says is unheard of on most popular Web

Continued on pg. 51

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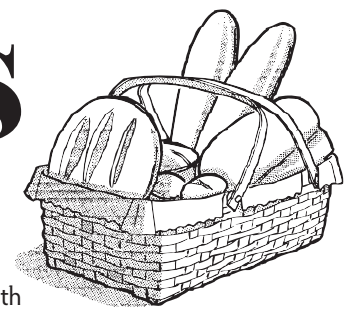

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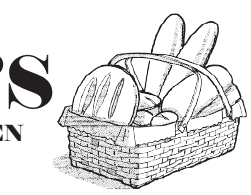

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CYBER SURFING

with
Jill B. Adair

Tracing your family history

Since I started writing this column, I haven't repeated a topic until now. Six years ago, I wrote about Internet resources that could help in family history research. Because so much has been added, I'm addressing that subject again.

I'm currently taking a 12-week course at the Mesa Arizona Regional Family History Center, where we're learning about many online resources that have information being added to them daily. It's getting easier and easier to trace one's history with just clicks of the mouse.

If you're just starting out, download a free Personal Ancestral File program. Go to the BYU site at paftutorial.byu.edu for step-by-step or visual presentations to learn how be more efficient in using PAF–from installing the program to editing information and adding multimedia. Then start by entering your name and those of your parents, grandparents and other family members along with important dates such as birth, death or marriage. Much of this information comes from personal knowledge and from asking questions.

The next step is surveying on the Internet, which means seeking out and finding research done by others to help avoid duplication of effort and to benefit from others' documented work.

The LDS Church's most recent effort in family history is at https://beta.familysearch.org. A project in progress, this will soon replace familysearch.org. On this site, you can find information easily from census, military and court records; birth, marriage and death certificates; and much more. Here, available to all, are the fruits of the indexing program–digital records, many with images of the original documents.

To find family trees that may connect to your family, go to wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com, where there are more than 575 million names on file. Subscribe to a surname e-mail list to connect with others who are researching the same family name. This site is easily searchable and free to use.

Ancestry.com has become the world's largest online resource for family history documents and family trees. A subscription fee is required to use the site at home but, at the Mesa Regional Family History Center, 41 S. Hobson, patrons can access it free. Search billions of names and extensive collections of vital records and historical information.

FindAGrave.com boasts 52 million grave records that can be searched by name or cemetery. Thanks to countless volunteers who have photographed tombstones in their local cemeteries, viewing the Web site is the next best thing to being there.

At ProGenealogists.com/genealogysleuthb.htm, professional genealogists share their most useful sites for conducting searches. Most sites are free but some require a fee.

Visit Footnote.com where the National Archives and Footnote.com are working as partners to bring access to selections of the vast holdings of the National Archives. This includes Revolutionary War pensions, Civil War pensions, naturalization records, FBI case files, and more. Basic membership is free. Pay to upgrade or access this site at LDS family history centers.

Cyndi's List, cyndislist.com, has an alphabetical list of Internet genealogy sites, which includes nearly 280,000 links, categorized and cross-referenced in over 180 categories.

Research Wiki at https://wiki.familysearch.org is an online genealogy encyclopedia. It offers thousands of articles and research tools, including videos, to help you with your search.

Editor's Note: This column is designed to provide Beehive readers with timesaving direction and ideas for safely and easily surfing the Internet. To suggest a topic for a future column or to share an interesting Web site with others, e-mail: 5adair@cox.net.

Writers Association Conference
Continued from pg. 44

presenters and with other authors, agents and editors in a relaxed setting at Friday evening's Meet-and-Greet. Additionally, writers with a finished work are invited to sign up for Saturday pitch sessions with participating editor/agents: Kirk Shaw, editor for Covenant Communications; David R. Godine, Kelly Mortimer agent/owner of Mortimer Literary Agency; and Kelly Sonnack, agent at Andrea Brown Literary Agency.

Friday workshops focus on query letters and preparing to pitch to editors and agents. Both sessions will be taught by popular blogger Elana Johnson, author of the forthcoming release, *Possessions*.

"We encourage writers to take advantage of the hotel discount offered for the conference and make this a writer retreat with friends. Come for Friday, network at the Meet-and-Greet, enjoy the heated pool and other hotel amenities, then stay the night. When you wake in the morning, you're right there, ready for all that Saturday classes have to offer," says ANWA president, Aimee Morgan.

"With our two-day event and beautiful new location, we're ready to compete with the big writers conferences," adds ANWA events planner, Cindy Williams.

The conference will culminate with a book signing from 5 to 6 p.m. Booksellers must be conference attendees, but the book signing is open to everyone. Anyone is welcome to invite potential book buyers and publicize the signing, as well as the conference, through Web sites, blogs or tweets.

ANWA founder, Marsha Ward says, "As we celebrate ANWA's 26th anniversary, the thought that we've offered education, networking and sisterly support to hundreds of women writers in the Church is very gratifying to me. Our conferences have always extended that same outreach to men and women writers, as they are open to every writer, not only members of ANWA. The conference coming up is no exception. It's going to be excellent."

For more information about the conference or the ANWA organization, visit: anwa-lds.com.

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Renowned Tenor, **George Dyer,** to Perform **in Arizona**

Renowned tenor, George Dyer, highly acclaimed for the quality of his voice as well as his stirring performances and ability to inspire audiences, has signed a five-year contract in Branson, Missouri, and will spend the off-season in Arizona where he will do 52 shows between December and March.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

George Dyer shares his testimony and his love for the Lord through music, and does it in what has been heralded as one of the greatest tenor voices in the world.

Now one of the most highly acclaimed stars in the Branson, Missouri, music scene, George also will be a great draw for Arizona audiences, where he will perform 52 shows during the Branson off-season this December through March.

George Dyer is well-known to LDS audiences for his collections of sacred music. A multiple Pearl Award winner, George has also performed at Timeout for Women and has been a guest soloist with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir on numerous occasions, including a 2005 worldwide broadcast to over 63 countries, translated in over 75 languages.

George's impressive list of accomplishments also includes performing extensively for general audiences. He has garnished rave reviews in some of the most prestigious opera houses and concert halls across North America and throughout the world, performing with the New York City Opera, Hawaii Opera Theatre, Utah Symphony and Opera and many more, including solo concerts in cities around the world.

Courtesy of George Dyer

In 2009, George signed a five-year contract to perform throughout the season at the Dutton Family Theatre in Branson.

Reviewers point to his beautiful lyric tenor voice as the source of his success, calling it "powerful," "rich," "clear," "silken" and "gorgeous." In addition to his amazing voice, fans say he is a gifted performer, who, in his easy audience-involving style, and delightful mix of opera, Broadway favorites and short dramatic segments, can make people reach into the very heart of their emotions.

A native of Virginia, George grew up loving music. He first became recognized for his voice at the age of 12 during a roadshow performance. He participated in school choirs and had many opportunities to showcase his talent before graduating and being called to serve a mission in Argentina.

There he met Wayne Leavitt, now a member of the Hillcrest Ward, in the Hermosa Vista Stake. As companions, they served with a mission president who believed in the power of music and encouraged them to use it everywhere, even in door approaches.

"The real power of music," George says, "is in its ability to uplift and to bless and to bring people to Christ."

Now, many years since their mission experiences, George and Wayne are working together again, with Wayne as George's manager, booking agent and co-owner of the show.

"It's amazing, after all these years that we're back together with an opportunity like this," Wayne says. He says, similar to when they were on their missions together, "We continue to try to share the gospel through music. George bears his testimony in every show of the Savior Jesus Christ."

Both Wayne and George, who is on the high council in the Springfield South Stake, will travel between Branson and Arizona, often with their family members joining them in their travel and their work.

"We're excited about the 52 shows that we'll be doing in Arizona beginning in December," Wayne says. "We'll be at the Arizona Broadway Dinner Theatre, the Broadway Palm Theatre and at the Dutton Family Theatre for several engagements, as well as at other venues across the state."

George Dyer's CDs are available in LDS bookstores or on www.deseretbook.com. For a schedule of upcoming concerts, visit www.georgedyer.com

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Rhyme and Reason

By Linda Turley-Hansen

Response to Trouble is Just a Heart Away

Helicopters were circling the battle zone. Army men were scattered all over the paper. Bullets were flying in every direction as the speaker droned on and on. Rostin, like many five-year-olds, has found a way to stay quiet in church. Give him a pencil and paper and he's content. That day, tucked tightly under my arm, the blonde, brown-eyed, miniature Brad Pitt, chose to entertain himself playing paper war. He assigned me, Grandma Linda, to draw paratroopers, descending from the sky.

Just as I was contemplating his subject matter, his best friend, perky, six-year-old Amanda, reached over with her pencil and added, right smack in the middle of the battle- zone, "I LOVE." Then, quickly, she drew two stick figures with a big heart in between.

It happened so fast, neither Rostin nor I could stop the attack of affection. Well—now that was conflict. That act of aggression sent shudders running through Rostin that vibrated all along the pew. Her swift defiance of peer pressure was impressive, but so angered him that I feared he would do her bodily harm. I assured him in hushed tones that his war could continue. We just cordoned off the love part.

And so goes life. Isn't that what we do? Someone makes war and someone cooks up loving antidotes. Yes, and often we build fences in order to keep out one or the other.

For this sidewalk philosopher, that moment of love-shock set off all kinds of enlightenment. On the global scale, war is always somewhere and, on cue, loving acts arise in response. This summer, the bishop of a ward in Visalia, California, was murdered. Within a few short days, strangers were initiating fundraising emails to benefit his widow and six children. It's rhythmic, first the dark, then the light.

A solid source of wisdom on this subject is bestselling author of *The Road Less Travelled,* M. Scott Peck, PhD. He set about to study evil and thus created a sobering work called "People of the Lie." The contents are so grim, it's a difficult read, but the last few pages reveal the secrets most Christians have always known.

Peck contends that love is the ultimate healer, in the clinic and out. Yet we miserable humans need lots of reminders, beginning in our own homes.

This is not a subject generally embraced on political or business fronts, nor on editorial pages. Love is considered touchy-feely—not scientifically reliable. Thus, evil has little interference in the very arenas where laws are crafted and controls are developed in regards to our nation and families.

Nonetheless, we know the secret: Loving acts do have neutralizing power. Peck describes them as strong enough to contain and defuse "malignant energy." No matter our circumstances, if we breathe, we can participate. In regards to our current, national state of affairs, we can use massive, neutralizing doses.

But, there's a catch: It requires the highest level of our own behavior, almost impossible to sustain. Hopefully, someday, everyone will understand what the very clever and courageous Amanda already knows.

Online Tool Helps Kids
Continued from pg. 48

sites. However, MyJobChart.com does allow parents to access an Amazon store link where they can purchase rewards for their children if they so choose.

"MyJobChart.com is mainly about spending time with your family and building character over time," Gregg says. "Kids feel that they're accomplishing something and getting the job done."

Parents can also create lists for themselves, a feature which Brother Murset, himself, could easily use with his busy schedule. In addition to his work, his Web site and his family responsibilities, he serves in the bishopric of the Hawes Ward, Queen Creek Stake.

To access his Web site, visit www.MyJobChart.com.

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The Pace Setter

In The Mommy Zone...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

I recently attended a cross country meet for my two oldest sons. This particular competition was intriguing because both Varsity and Junior Varsity athletes were racing simultaneously and I was anxious to watch them vie for the fastest mileage.

Before the race, my eldest son, a senior in high school, was calm and cool. He had been on the Varsity team his entire high school career and even contended in some regional and state meets. He had run this specific course before and was comfortable in his speedy distance pace.

My second son, a freshman, was nervous and jittery. He was on the Junior Varsity squad and was overwhelmed to be competing with such talent. This was his first season of cross country and he was still trying to perfect his rhythm, pace, and running stride.

My heart jumped at the starting gun and I held my breath as about a hundred masculine runners pounded past me, pumping their brawny arms in time to the pulsing of their methodical strides.

I watched the runners quickly weave in and out of cones and up and down hills. The pack raced ferociously around a grove of trees and through a far-away fence. As each runner faded into the distance, I squinted to catch a glimpse of either son, but to no avail.

About 15 minutes later, the first athletes began to emerge from their trek. They sprinted past, donning school uniforms I didn't recognize. My oldest son would soon be approaching, I told myself. He always seemed positioned in the top running tier.

Several more runners zipped past. I didn't spy the familiar brilliant green colors representing his high school. Other athletes sped across the viewfinder of my camcorder. I witnessed a vivid swirl of prismatic uniforms and a blur of fancy footwear as more runners appeared, forcing their high-velocity pace.

I was surprised that no green uniforms had passed yet. I quit filming. I began to worry that something was wrong. I careened my neck to catch a better view. After some moments of sheer apprehension, I finally spied my oldest son. I zoomed in on his gleaming green uniform.

I noticed that he kept looking backwards over his shoulder. He would take a few steps, then peer backwards again and again. I wondered what he was doing. As an athlete, he knows this action slows runners down.

Why wasn't he concentrating on the competition ahead? He should be running with the leaders, I wistfully thought.

A few seconds later, I saw my freshman appear on the horizon. For a sweet moment, I seized this rare opportunity and filmed both sons running the race together in perfect stride, one just steps in front of the other. My oldest son kept looking back. My younger son kept looking forwards. I finally realized what was going on.

As they both disappeared over the skyline, their heads bobbing up and down in a mesmerizing tempo, my eyes grew misty. My faster, elder son had sacrificed his place in the winner's circle to set pace for his younger brother, a more inexperienced and green runner. He had chosen to let the competition pass, assisting his sibling in stretching and growing as an athlete.

We are each in our own cross country race of a lifetime. Some of us are prepared for our miles-long journey, some of us are not. Some will complete the course in record time and some will be grateful just to have finished the race.

But each of us need mentors who have previously contended and know how to stride correctly and perfect a rhythm. We must be pace-setters for each other, slowing down to help a family member in need, giving up our glory to lift a friend that has fallen.

During our lifetime race, there will be hills and valleys to conquer, obstacles in our way, and fatigue to suppress. But we can compete together, just as my two sons did, looking out for each other, setting a winning pace for one another, staying true to the course.

That race turned out to be my freshman's personal best. But, he couldn't have done it without the help of his pace-setter, someone he shadowed, someone he trusted and believed in.

We celebrated two winning runners that day. I couldn't have been more proud as they crossed the finish line within seconds of each other, green uniforms blazing, setting their mother's heart on fire.

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Mark Cooley
Pioneer Ward
Texas, Houston South (Spanish)

Nathan Dandridge
Taylor Park Ward
Florida, Jacksonville

Bradley Dellrie
Constellation Ward
Brazil, Campinas

Cody Dueker
Lyn Rae Ward
Philippines, Ilo Ilo

Nathaniel Free
Harris I Ward
Italy, Milan

Matthew Gallego
Las Sendas Ward
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (Spanish)

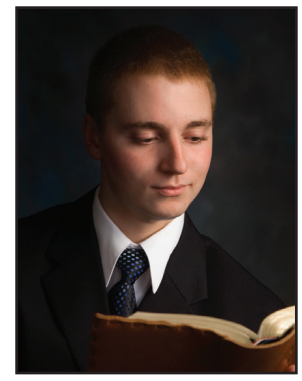
Matthew Gulbrandson
Estate Groves Ward
Uruguay, Montevideo West

Greg Hakes
Dana Ranch Ward
Paraguay, Asuncion North

Jared Heywood
Chandler Heights Ward
South Carolina, Columbia

Jonathan Hoopes
Aspen Ward
Frances, Paris

Mitchell Jennings
Arboledo Branch Ward
Guatemala, Retal Huleu



Nolan Johnson
Dana Ranch Ward
Michigan, Lansing

Bryson Kearl
Willow Canyon Ward
Illinois, Chicago

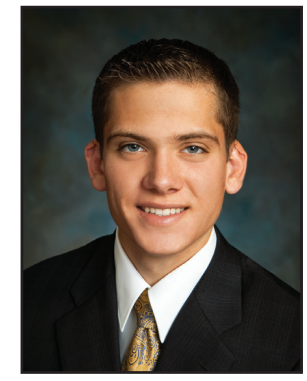
Joshua Kenny
Gilbert 9th Ward
Mexico, Mexico City NW

Nathan Larson
Emerald Acres Ward
Korea, Seoul

Jackson Law
Voyager Ward
South Carolina, Columbia

Blaine Leach
Ahwatukee I Ward
Netherlands, Belgium

Nathan Mortensen
Aspen Ward Ward
Chile, Santiago East



Trent Nielson
Miramar Ward
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Stephen Phelps
Fraser Ward
Idaho, Boise

Caitlin Porter
Hermosa Vista Ward
New York, New York City South (Spanish)

Craig Roberts
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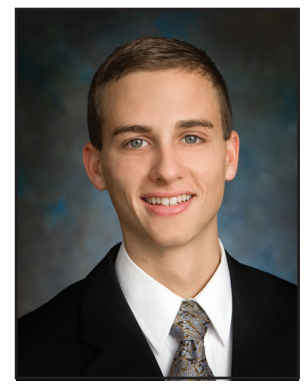

Jacob Stradling
Grandview I Ward
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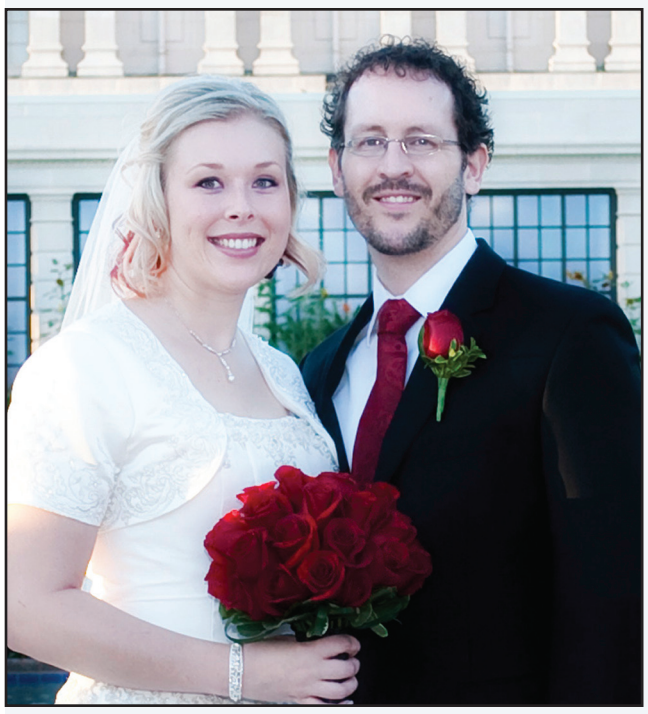

Morgan Cummard & Thomas Skeen
Married September 11, 2010
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Tanya Weber Shupe & Dave Goodman
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The Gould Group is a family of award-winning realtors that includes the dynamic mother-daughter team of Penny Gould and Shannon Vowles. Their business is largely driven by referrals, a testament to the value they bring their clients.

With the changes in the Arizona real estate market over the last few years, the Gould Group has focused on assisting clients in purchasing short sales and bank-owned properties.

"While the current economic downturn has tragically impacted far too many families, the large inventory of short sales and bank-owned properties has provided incredible opportunities for others," Penny says. "There are, however, numerous issues associated with these transactions. For example, a bank-owned transaction we recently completed included an 11-page addendum from the bank. This addendum sought to negate many of the rights buyers are afforded in the standard Arizona residential purchase contract. Through our knowledge and experience we were able to successfully negotiate and protect those rights."

Susan Schreiber, a Gould Group client, says, "Penny and Shannon went above and beyond to help us find the best value and continually communicated to us what the procedures were when dealing with bank-owned properties. We felt confident they were always looking out for our best interest while helping us avoid potential pitfalls. They were very aware of the costs, fees and inspections required, and who was responsible for them. I highly recommend their services to anyone."

The Gould Group also continues to be a leader in the luxury home and land markets. They are members of the South East Valley Area Association of Realtors and the White Mountain Board of Realtors. Penny has served with other top agents in the company on the Keller Williams Realty East Valley's Agent Leadership Council.

Continuously acknowledged for her dedication, Penny received the Keller Williams Values & Ethics award, was nominated for the Keller Williams Cultural Icon Award, and was designated as a "Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist" as well as a member of the Graduate REALTOR® Institute (GRI).

Though consistently recognized for their knowledge and business ethics, the Gould Group says most rewarding for them is winning the trust and confidence of their many clients.

Shannon says, "Today's market is extremely stressful for both sellers and buyers. Whether it's the falling prices sellers have experienced the last few years, or the sometimes long delays in gaining short sell approvals for buyers, we try to be sensitive to these issues and work very hard to provide the best customer service. We want all of our clients to have the best experience possible when either buying or selling their home."

Penny adds, "We are very grateful and feel blessed to have worked with so many great clients over the last year. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and very happy holiday season."

For more information about the current real estate market, call the Gould Group at 480-600-3663 or visit www.TheGouldGroup.org.

The Gould Group, including Penny Gould (left) and her daughter, Shannon Vowles, offer a dynamic blend of expertise, experience and noteworthy customer service as they help clients navigate the current real estate market.

Photo by Carol Cefalu

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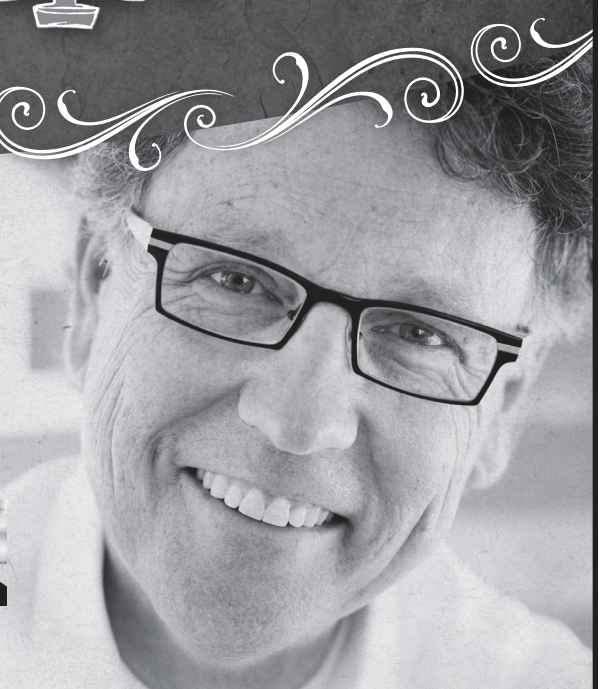

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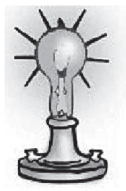

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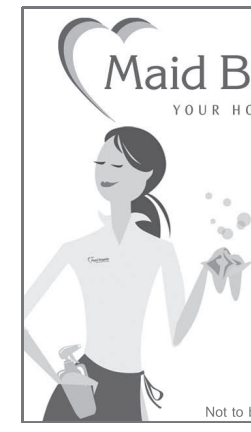

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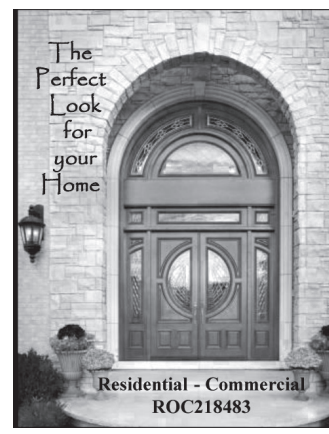

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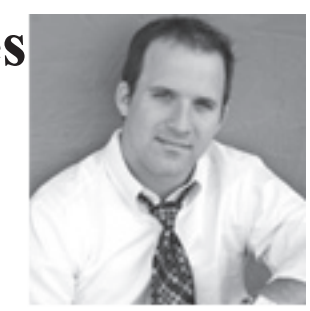

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Mormons' Knowledge of Bible, Christianity Evident in National U.S. Pew Study

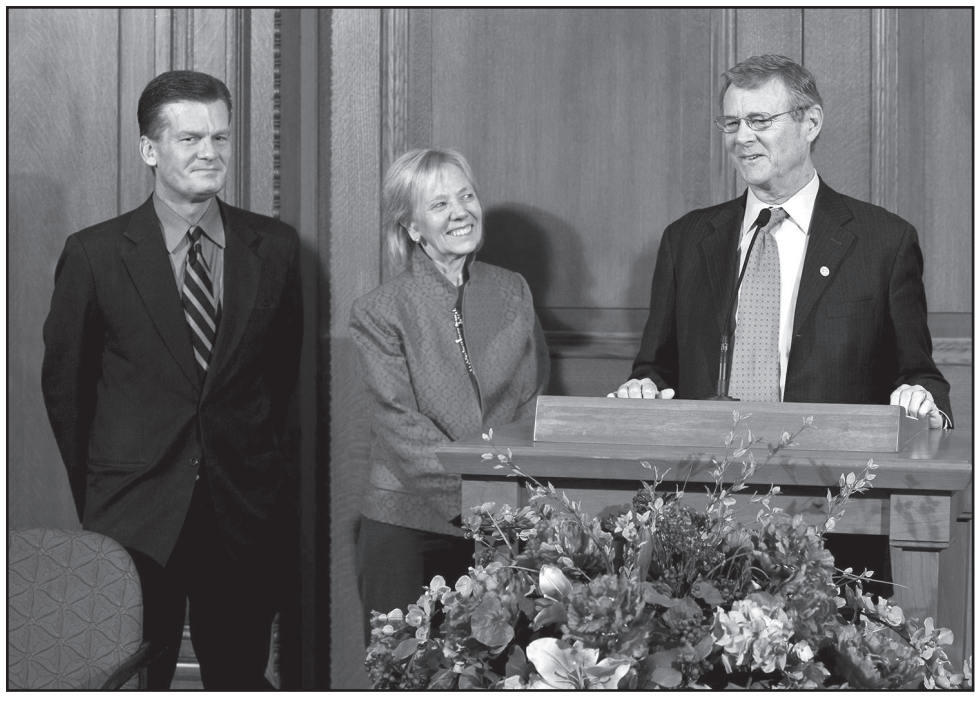
A new study from the Pew Research Center shows that Mormons score among the highest of all religion groups in their knowledge of Christianity, the Bible and other religious information. The nationwide poll of 3,412 individuals was conducted in May and June of this year. While the study showed that "large numbers of Americans are uninformed about the tenets, practices, history and leading figures of major faith traditions — including their own," there were positive findings.

In the study, Mormons scored higher than any other group in questions about the Bible and Christianity. Church members are often asked whether Latter-day Saints use the Bible. The Bible is one of the foundational volumes of scripture used in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is used in conjunc-

Continued on pg. 61

LDS Sunday services include two hours of religious instruction as well as an hour-long worship service. One of those hours is spent in a study of the scriptures, including the Holy Bible.

Church Makes Significant Donation to Operation Smile



Dr. William P. Magee, cofounder and CEO of Operation Smile, speaks about the Church donation to Operation Smile, an international children's medical charity that provides treatment to children afflicted with cleft palate and facial deformities.

Operation Smile, an international children's medical charity, joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in a news conference to thank the Church for its recent $927,000 donation.

Funds will support medical missions over the next year to help a combined 3,800 children in Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt and Jordan who are afflicted with cleft palate and other facial deformities.

"There's no such thing as any one person doing anything in life. There is no one hero," said William Magee, cofounder and CEO of Operation Smile. "Without so many people [working together], no job would get taken care of. There's never one person that does it. The Church is a great example of that. … We want to say thank you for sharing your love. God bless you."

According to Operation Smile, every three minutes a child is born with a cleft lip condition that will go untreated. Furthermore, one in 10 children born with a cleft will die before their first birthday.

"We are grateful for members of the Church who have so freely donated financially to the Church's Humanitarian Fund," said Fred Riley, Church project manager for Humanitarian Services. "It is through such donations that this partnership with Operation Smile can come to fruition."

"We know that much good will come from this partnership and look forward to helping to increase the good work that Operation Smile provides," Riley said.

The Church is a longtime supporter of Operation Smile and including today's financial commitment has donated nearly $1.2 million to the organization since 1991. Most recently, the Church supported Breakfast for Smiles, a yearly Operation Smile event.

tion with other scriptures, including the Book of Mormon.

The study also found that Mormons, "black Protestants" and "white evangelicals" are the most frequent readers of material about religion. "Fully half of all Mormons (51%) and roughly three-in-ten white evangelicals (30%) and black Protestants (29%) report that they read books or go online to learn about their own religion at least once a week."

The study also found that Mormons had the highest score of any religious group in their knowledge of what the Constitution says about religion and the government. In a recent address, Elder Dallin H. Oaks, an apostle, spoke about the four major fundamentals of the United States Constitution.

Mormons also score higher than the general public in their knowledge of world religions. With regards to the public's knowledge of Mormonism, the study found that four in ten Americans know that the "Mormon religion" was founded sometime after 1800 (44%) and that the Book of Mormon tells the story of Jesus appearing to people in the Americas (40%). About half (51%) correctly identify Joseph Smith, the "founder of the Church," as a Mormon.

Regarding the survey, research director Luis Lugo and associate director Alan Cooperman said in the preface, "There was no comprehensive, national survey assessing the general state of religious knowledge among U.S. adults." To address this gap, they said, "the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life set out to gauge what Americans know about their own faiths and about other religions."

The study found that people who attend a college religion class (as many Mormons do) answered three (out of 32) more questions correctly. Many Latter-day Saints also serve full-time gospel teaching missions where their knowledge of religion is expanded further. Additionally, Mormons are encouraged to have daily personal scripture study and to study with their families. And the Church also recently relaunched its LDS.org website, which is a significant resource for Mormons and others to read religious information online.

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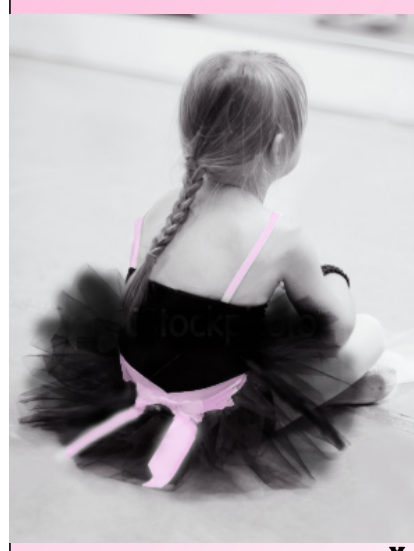

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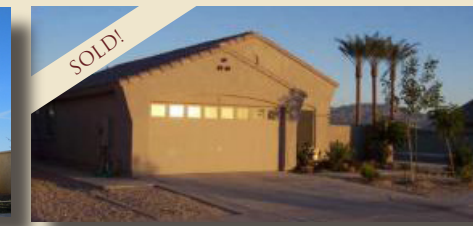

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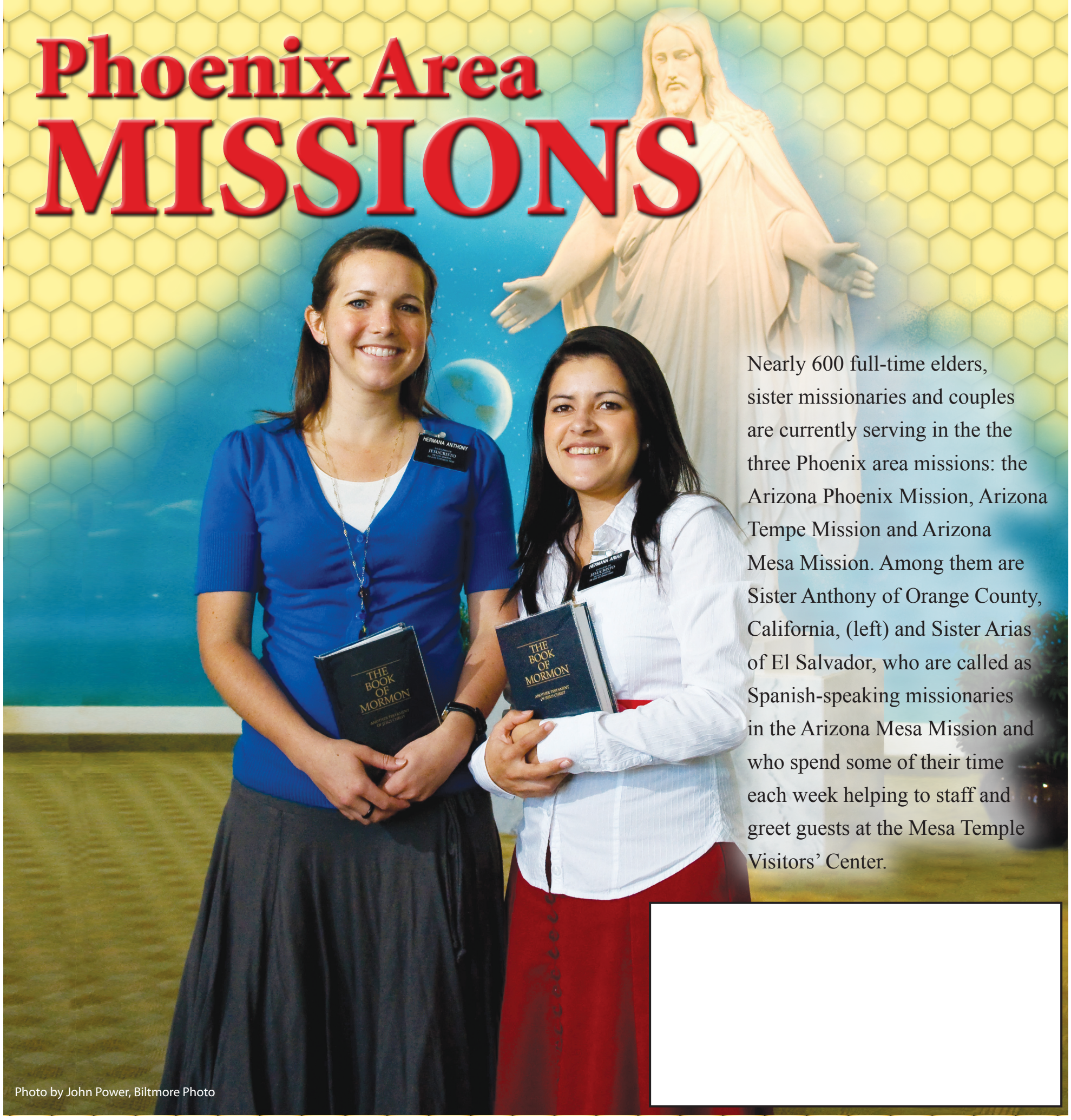

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Nearly 600 full-time elders, sister missionaries and couples are currently serving in the the three Phoenix area missions: the Arizona Phoenix Mission, Arizona Tempe Mission and Arizona Mesa Mission. Among them are Sister Anthony of Orange County, California, (left) and Sister Arias of El Salvador, who are called as Spanish-speaking missionaries in the Arizona Mesa Mission and who spend some of their time each week helping to staff and greet guests at the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center.